

THE TIMES Monday

Profile looks at Georges Marchais, the ailing head of the equally ailing French Communist Party...

Less cash for crime victims

About half the victims of violent crimes will be excluded from the Government's injuries compensation scheme...

Polar explorer airlifted off ice

David Hempleman-Adams, the lone polar walker, was airlifted off the Arctic ice, shaken and hungry...

Output up 1.1%

Britain is leading the world out of recession, Mr. Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury...

Airliner seized

A Turkish airliner on an internal flight from Istanbul to Izmir was hijacked to Athens where 27 of the 107 passengers were freed...

Train robbery

A gang of robbers hiding on an overnight mail train ransacked 60 mailbags before fleeing as the train approached Crewe...

Family money

Investors in the only fund investing in the Unlisted Securities Market have seen their money grow by 48 per cent over 18 months...

Bishop flies out

The Bishop of Liverpool, Dr David Sheppard, left London on his way to Argentina, the first British church leader to go there since the Falklands conflict...

Kohl's US talks

Chancellor Kohl of West Germany met President Reagan in Washington yesterday to review US-Soviet arms talks and to prepare for next month's economic summit...

Secret flight

A drug smuggler who turned supergrass was flown out of Britain secretly in an RAF jet because of fears for his life...

Cup troubles

All four FA Cup semi-finalists, Manchester United, Arsenal, Brighton and Sheffield Wednesday have had their plans disrupted by injuries...

Marathon critic

Ron Hill, the world's most experienced long distance runner, said that marathon running in Britain has not progressed since his heyday in 1969-70...

Saturday

In today's edition of Saturday, David Hewson examines how the real life revolution has transformed the drinking habits of millions of Britons...

Leaders page: 7 Letters: Citizen's advice bureau, from Mr J. A. Millson; war widows, from Mr Merlyn Rees...

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Thatcher rallying call for three wins in a row

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher last night put Conservative parliamentary candidates on the alert for the general election but, as expected, kept them in the dark over the date.

The 150 candidates gathered in a Hertfordshire hotel for a rallying call and pep talk from their leader, were however, left in no doubt that June is very much an option in her mind.

The Prime Minister emphasized last night, as she had in radio and television interviews earlier, that she had not yet decided whether to go to the country in June and would wait until after the fourth anniversary of the May 1979 victory before considering the matter.

She tantalized her audience of parliamentary hopefuls in an after-dinner speech in which she said there were four options for the election: June, October, next March, and May 1984.

Mrs Thatcher, who had earlier spoken on radio of her vision of a return to the "eternal" values of the Victorian era, told the candidates to set their sights on achieving Tory rule well into the 1990s.

Recalling her oft-repeated remarks that her Government would need two parliaments, she said that the revised objection must now be to ensure that there were three consecutive Conservative governments.

Mr Thatcher's remarks, at the Crest Hotel in South Mimms, were nothing more than would have been expected in such an occasion, but her confident message clearly warned the candidates to be ready for June.

When the election came they must put forward the Government's positive policies on the broad issues "on which we win the way".

She told them to fight on the Government's record on inflation, saying it would be the first Government to go to the country on an inflation rate lower than the one it inherited, the control of public spending, defence and law and order, and its labour legislation.

She urged them to emphasize that the Government had services record, particularly in regard to pensioners, was good. Many of the candidates attending the weekend conference are standing in seats where their chances are promising and they were hoping to use the opportunity of conversations with Mrs Thatcher to show their eagerness for an early fight.

Party organizers were trying yesterday, with little success to play down the significance of the conference, saying that it was an annual event and should not be seen as a pre-election council of war.

If Mrs Thatcher was being reticent about the poll date and there were signs among her close advisers yesterday of a wish to dampen the speculation, the recent bout of election fever seemed but last night to have afflicted some of her more cautious senior ministers.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, who has favoured an October election, said in Stockport, Greater Manchester, he detected a mood of optimism. The worst of the recession was over and people were beginning to realize that in the long run the Government's policies had been right ones for creating future jobs.

"We have weathered the recession because we have remained resolute," Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for Transport, said in Birmingham that the signs of economic recovery are quickening and Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, emphasized the importance of the May local elections to Conservative general election hopes.

Continued on page 2, col 2

Lighter fuel bomb defused

A letter bomb was sent to the hotel where the Prime Minister was meeting Conservative party candidates last night. The device, addressed to Mr Jeremy Hanley, chairman of the Conservative Party Candidates Association, was defused by a bomb disposal officer.

Mr Robert Key, the candidate for Salisbury, Wiltshire, was suspicious about the 7in by 5in parcel which arrived at the Crest Hotel, South Mimms, Hertfordshire, at tea time.

He made a hole in the side then carried it into the garden where the police were called.

The bomb, of lighter fuel, was believed to have been sent by the Scottish National Liberation Army, which claimed responsibility for "attacks" yesterday and today but did not specify targets.

It produced the conditions for a more competitive Britain able to make the most of the economic upturn, that it had pursued resolutely its policy of achieving a property-owning democracy and that its social



Arms and the woman: Mrs Thatcher being shown artificial arms and hands while visiting the Queen Mary Hospital, Roehampton, south London, yesterday.

Sir Larry appointed editor of 'Express'

By Rupert Morris

The Daily Express acquired its fifth new editor in six years yesterday with the appointment of Sir Larry Lamb, a former editor of The Sun, to succeed Mr Christopher Ward, editor of the Daily Express for the past 18 months.

Sir Larry will take over the editorship on Monday, after a typically brutal episode in the traditionally unpredictable world of Fleet Street.

Lord Matthews, chairman of Express Newspapers, was not available yesterday, but is understood to have summoned Mr Ward back from a holiday on the West Coast of America to inform him that Sir Larry Lamb was being brought in as Editor-in-Chief.

Yesterday's announcement from Express Newspapers said Mr Ward was "leaving the newspaper by mutual agreement".

The move comes as no great surprise because although Mr Ward is thought by many newspaper experts to have made substantial improvements to the appearance and content of the paper, he has been unable to arrest its steady decline in circulation.

Sir Larry, aged 53, when editor of The Sun, raised its circulation from 650,000 in 1969 to more than three million by the mid-1970s.

Although, Lord Matthews will undoubtedly be pleased to have secured Sir Larry's services, the new editor faces a daunting challenge. Circulation fell below two million, for the first time last year.

Mr Ward, aged 40, formerly assistant editor of the Daily Mirror, told members of his staff yesterday that April 15 was an unlucky date in his family; his uncle had been a clarinet player on board the Titanic when it sank on the same day 61 years ago.

BL threat to dismiss all Cowley workers

By Clifford Webb

Austin Rover management last night accepted the challenge thrown down by the unions and threatened to dismiss all 5,000 employees at its Cowley assembly plant unless they end their three-week "washing-up" strike almost immediately.

Because letters containing the threat were only dispatched to employees late last night and may not be received until later today, the company refused to disclose details of their contents; however, it is understood to have set a deadline for a return to work within seven days.

The move was anticipated by local union officials early in the dispute. They advised their members to accept a deadline and return to work, but key groups of workers would almost certainly then follow up with 'guerrilla' strikes which would be almost as damaging as the present full-scale stoppage.

Earlier in the day Mr Harold Musgrove, chairman of BL's Austin Rover subsidiary, accused Cowley shop stewards of using the dispute to try to restore the power base they lost two years ago when national union leaders accepted a radical programme of new working practices.

He said in a statement: "Many of the people behind these wild claims about 'brutality' and 'slavery' want a return to the days of the early 1970s when every decision could effectively be vetoed by any shop steward so inclined, when dogmatic insistence on the right to veto even the most minor shop floor change throttled our ability to compete with the rapidly improving industries of Japan, and western Europe."

"Unfortunately, there are some people who once wielded the power of veto, who resent the changes which have taken place despite the fact that employees have benefited. Some of these people are now cynically portraying their loss of influence as some sort of general movement by management to oppress the entire workforce."

The strike looks set to go into its fourth week following Thursday's vote to stay out until the company drops plans to end the three minute washing up period. It has already cost £60m in lost production, half of it new Maestros.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Employment Minister yesterday, accused production line workers of trying to disrupt BL's recovery efforts.

Local party challenge to Silkin

By Our Political Staff

Mr John Silkin's attempt to take control of the Tribune newspaper has run into such fierce opposition within his local constituency party that his position as an MP may be challenged.

Four of the ward branches in his seat at Lewisham, Deptford, have passed resolutions calling on him to cease his legal action against the left-wing journal or to stand down as Labour candidate at the next general election.

Under the party's rules for the selection of parliamentary candidates, Mr Silkin, shadow leader of the Commons and Labour's chief defence spokesman, would not have been opposed in a constituency whose boundaries were only marginally revised.

But among some local activists there is talk of mounting a challenge to him at the usually formal adoption meeting which precedes the general election if he persists in his attempt. Sources said yesterday that so unpopular has his action against Tribune become that the challenges might succeed.

The attempt by a consortium led by Mr Silkin and Lord Bruce of Donington to take control of Tribune, prompted by concern at the BBC's direction it was adopting, appeared to have thwarted in December by a counter-coup.

At a board meeting which neither attended it was agreed to set up an employee shareholding scheme which enabled the employees effectively to buy enough shares to outvote the consortium.

Mr Silkin and Lord Bruce have since initiated legal action against the Tribune staff and the chairman of Tribune Publications, Mr Michael Meacher, MP for Oldham, West. They have also opposed moves to set up a friendly society, arguing that there was no guarantee that all its members would be members of the Labour Party.

Wife urges Nkomo to return home

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Zimbabwe Opposition leader who has been living here in self-imposed exile for the past five weeks, telephoned friends in Bulawayo yesterday after hearing that his wife was appealing for him to return.

But he brushed aside questions later. "My wife knows I am going to return. I have explained to you already."

Mrs Hobbana Nkomo is living "under house arrest" in Bulawayo, in the home where Mr Nkomo's driver was shot dead by Government troops.

Repeating her appeal on The World at One radio programme, however, she said that the police guard had been placed around the house for her own protection and at her request. There were three policemen there in the afternoon and more at night. "If the police can protect me, an ordinary person, how about a Member of Parliament?" she added.

She had read in the newspapers the assurance by Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, that her husband would be free to return, but she had been unable to contact him in London earlier this week. "I have not spoken to him for three weeks. If I could do so now, I would say: 'Come home straight away. I know you will be safe.'"

Whether her plea will be enough to allay Mr Nkomo's suspicions remains to be seen - although he insists now that his personal safety is no longer the main barrier to his return.

It was presumably to reassure her that he contacted friends in Matabeleland - avoiding direct contact with his house whose telephone is assuredly tapped by Mr Mugabe's security forces.

But he remains reticent about his future plans, beyond saying that he no longer fears for his own safety on returning home - a fear which was his original reason for flying to Britain after the raid upon his house.

How long he intends to stay in Britain is still a mystery. His initial plan to fly home on April 6 was postponed in the light of Mr Mugabe's rejection of Zimbabwe's Catholic pastoral letter in which they recoiled from the atrocities in Matabeleland.

Walesa set to meet underground again

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mr Lech Walesa, former Solidarity leader, announced yesterday that he would again meet fugitive leaders of the union underground wing, despite the investigations that have opened into his first secret rendezvous.

Speaking in Gdansk, Mr Walesa said: "I will have another meeting. I am not sure whether this would not endanger the underground men. Mr Walesa remarked: 'I guarantee it was safe (last time) - and I will do it again.'"

The Polish authorities yesterday interrogated the driver of Warsaw ghetto row, page 5

Romania expels man Britain returned

By David Nicholson-Lord

A Labour MP last night called for the resignation of Mr David Waddington, Minister of State at the Home Office, after the disclosure that the young Romanian deported from Britain a month ago has now been expelled from Romania.

Mr Stancu Papsouiu, aged 29, was thrown out of Romania on April 6 and is now in a hostel in Austria, according to reports reaching a friend in Britain. Miss Shan Rees, who was Mr Papsouiu's English teacher, has received a letter from him posted in Austria earlier this week.

Miss Rees said last night: "He left Romania without any money and he was on the train without a ticket. I think that is where he was found. As far as I

ask whether the minister responsible, David Waddington, should not seriously consider resigning."

Mr Waddington last night refused to be drawn on the Home Office's likely response if the Romanian again applied for asylum here. "We are a mile from that stage yet. We have to find out precisely what the facts are first, which is what we are doing now."

Mr Papsouiu is apparently still holding a Romanian passport. The Austrian Ministry of the Interior last night confirmed that he had been held in temporary detention since April 7 in Wals.

The Ministry said the Romanian had not yet asked for political asylum in Austria, but there was no question of him being deported.



Mr Papsouiu: In detention.

understand he is under arrest at the moment." The Home Office's decision to refuse the Romanian asylum and then to deport him led to considerable criticism of the Government from the Con-

Britain expels another Russian

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Foreign Office yesterday expelled another Russian diplomat in a tit-for-tat response to the expulsion of two Britons from Moscow. He is Mr Anatoly Chernyayev, a Third Secretary, who has been at the part of Soviet Embassy in London assisting labour attaché since September 1979.

These seems to be no suggestion that he has done anything improper and the Foreign Office decision, which is thought to reflect Mrs Thatcher's tough line in dealing with the Kremlin, is likely to interpret Anglo-Soviet relations to refer to a new low.

The Soviet Ambassador, Mr Viktor Popov, reacted angrily when he was informed by the Foreign Office during a brief encounter yesterday afternoon. A short statement by the Soviet Embassy later underlined Russian feelings.

Last week's Soviet decision to expel Squadron Leader David Williams, assistant air attaché at the British Embassy and Mr Anthony Robinson, Moscow correspondent of the Financial Times, was in itself a tit-for-tat action after the expulsion of three Russian officials from Britain at Easter.

The Foreign Office warned the Soviet Union at the time that it would take "an extremely serious view" of any retaliation - an unusually strong choice of words, which led observers to speculate about the possibilities of yet another sudden departure.

It now remains to be seen whether the Russians will once more retaliate and what might happen next.

Last night's explanation by the Foreign Office made quite clear that this latest move is a response to the "unjustified Soviet action" against Squadron Leader Williams and Mr Robinson.

This Soviet reaction had been a "spiteful retaliation" for the ejection of three Soviet citizens from London, who, the Foreign Office claimed, had been later spying.

A spokesman added that yesterday's British action was in response to the particular "victimisation" of the two British citizens.

Britain will not reduce the overall ceiling on Soviet diplomats in Britain. This will remain at 43, which means that Mr Chernyayev can, and probably will be replaced.

The Soviet Embassy described the British action as "totally unjustified" and "without foundation".

"We regard it as a political measure on the British side meant to undermine British-Soviet relations." The responsibility for any possible consequences rested entirely with the British side, the Soviet spokesman said.

Advertisement for Victoria Wine, featuring a bottle of wine and text: VICTORIA WINE APRIL Wine of the month Grüne Kanne Liebfraumilch. A delicious example of Liebfraumilch, Germany's most popular white wine. Delicate, soft, medium-dry flavour, with a delightfully fragrant bouquet. Try this easy-to-drink wine in its attractive traditional green crock bottle today! ONLY 3.19 PER LITRE. WHITE WINE SELECTION MADE EASY. All white wines at Victoria. Wines are coded 1 to 9: 5 denotes the driest, 9 the sweetest. Britain's Leading Wine Merchant. ESTABLISHED 1850.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Postal workers' leaders hail 6 per cent pay settlement

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Leaders of 150,000 postal workers are recommending acceptance of a pay deal worth about 6 per cent, which is towards the upper half of settlements in the present pay round for public workers.

The Union of Communication Workers said the award was worth more than 6 per cent to most of its members, while the Post Office management estimated it was lower. Mr Alan Tuffin, the union's general secretary, said last night: "This is the first time for four years that we have settled at a rate above inflation."

"Although we were unable to secure additional increases to close differentials with supervising grades and to get shorter hours, the deal is a good one."

The award comprises a 5 per cent increase from the beginning of this month, with a further 1 per cent from August and other improvements, including an extra day's holiday. The Post Office said the deal would mean a 5.5 per cent increase in the pay bill taking

the holiday into account, the total value of the package was 5.8 per cent.

The £70m deal makes special provision for younger workers, and staff aged 18 will receive increases worth about 9.7 per cent.

The result of a ballot among union members, including postmen, sorters and counter staff, will be known early next month.

The Labour Party-TUC agreement on a programme for economic growth will meet in opposition from delegates at the National Union of Public Employees conference, where several motions opposing any form of wage restraint are expected to receive strong support.

Conference delegates will be asked to back the union's policy of striving for a minimum wage equivalent to two thirds of the national average wage, through free collective bargaining.

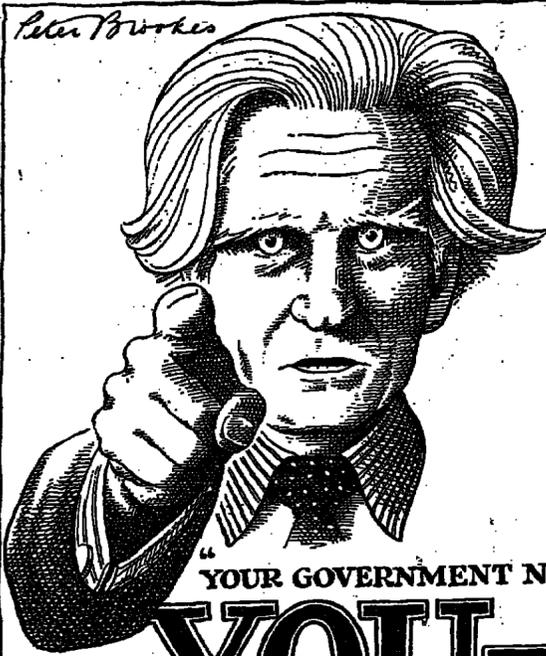
One motion maintains the Nupe members gain nothing from free collective bargaining, but that is unlikely to receive

conference support. The TUC-Labour agreement, which calls for pay to be drawn into a wider agreement on national economic assessment, will also be opposed by left-wing delegates.

Forty-thousand workers in the chemicals industry have backed the union leaders' rejection of a 4.5 per cent pay offer. Further talks are to be held with the employers when the unions will press for an offer closer to the 8 per cent increase in the hourly rate which negotiators claim was agreed for 15,000 drug and fine chemical workers on Wednesday.

One-day strikes by firemen at the end of the month look more likely as voting in regions of the Fire Brigades Union appeared to be strongly following the union executive's call for a strike over pension contributions.

Delegates to a special conference called for April 26 are being mandated by their branches and if the conference backs the executive the strikes will start in the last four days of the month.



YOUR GOVERNMENT NEEDS YOUTH TO EASE THE JOBLESS TOTAL

Court may decide Roach inquest venue

By Nicholas Timmins

The Greater London Council is considering legal action to force the inquest into the death of Colin Roach to be held in Hackney Town Hall rather than in St Pancras Coroner's Court.

The council has written to the coroner, Dr Douglas Chambers, asking him to move the inquest, due to open on Monday, if he does not do so, the council says that its legal and general

committee will be asked on Tuesday to approve legal action aimed at having the inquest moved.

The GLC has taken counsel's opinion to the effect that it has the power under the London Government Act to provide proper accommodation for the inquest, and argues that St Pancras Coroner's Court is too crowded much public interest.

Mr Roach, aged 21, died from shotgun wounds in the entrance to Stoke Newington police station in January, and there have been five demonstrations in connection with his death.

The coroner has rejected a request to move the inquest from the court, which can seat about forty people.

Vulnerability of the marginals

The shape of the Commons to come

By Our Political Editor

As the life of the present Parliament appears to ebb, politicians and students of politics are trying to familiarize themselves with the shape of the next House of Commons while trying also to guess its political colour.

Learning the names of the new constituencies where the next election will be lost and won - names such as Langborough, Elmet and Ynys Mon - means trouble enough for some. For would-be parliamentary candidates, as the safer seats are snapped up by accelerated selection conferences, the quest for a seat where this or that party has even a

sporting chance of winning becomes keener, and detailed knowledge of each seat's characteristics is eagerly sought.

The most detailed work on the constituency has been done by academics and also by a team of analysts from Independent Television News and the BBC. The broadcasters in particular have worked for months to calculate which political party would have won each of the new seats, and by what margin, if the 1979 general election had been fought on the new boundaries.

Their special interest will be in spotting the trend from the

first results on election night and forecasting the national outcome as soon as they can.

With only 59 seats wholly unchanged, in the new House of 650 members, the broadcasters would not have been able to use the familiar language of gains and losses as the results come in.

They have met the difficulty by allocating the new seats to the parties which they calculate would have won them in 1979, and so creating a simulated House of Commons in which they will report the notional gains and losses.

They have had many inquiries from their findings, not only

from candidates but from party organizers keen to check their own estimates of where the fight will be fiercest.

The fruits of the ITN/BBC working party's labours will appear in *The ITN/BBC Guide to the New Parliamentary Constituencies*, to be published on May 12 by Parliamentary Research Services, 18 Lincoln Green, Chichester, West Sussex.

Here for a start, published for the first time, is their list of marginals; the 278 seats, in order of vulnerability, which would change hands on a swing, one way or another, of up to 10 per cent of the vote.

Order	Constituency	Maj	Min	Order	Constituency	Maj	Min
1	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	76	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
2	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	77	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
3	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	78	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
4	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	79	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
5	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	80	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
6	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	81	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
7	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	82	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
8	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	83	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
9	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	84	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
10	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	85	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
11	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	86	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
12	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	87	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
13	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	88	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
14	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	89	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
15	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	90	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
16	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	91	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
17	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	92	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
18	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	93	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
19	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	94	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
20	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	95	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
21	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	96	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
22	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	97	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
23	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	98	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
24	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	99	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
25	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	100	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1

Order	Constituency	Maj	Min	Order	Constituency	Maj	Min
1	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	101	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
2	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	102	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
3	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	103	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
4	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	104	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
5	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	105	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
6	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	106	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
7	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	107	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
8	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	108	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
9	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	109	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
10	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	110	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
11	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	111	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
12	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	112	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
13	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	113	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
14	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	114	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
15	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	115	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
16	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	116	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
17	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	117	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
18	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	118	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
19	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	119	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
20	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	120	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1

Rejected candidate seeks new berth

By Richard Evans

The Conservative dropped at a prospective parliamentary candidate because his wife is a member of the League Against Cruel Sports said last night that he still hoped to contest the next election.

Mr Hugh Simmonds, who was originally chosen to contest the safe Tory seat of South-West Cambridgeshire, said that leading party figures had indicated that the controversy surrounding his selection and rejection would not hinder his

chances of being chosen elsewhere.

"The reaction I have had from people in the party generally is that they regard this as a unique situation that in no way stands to my discredit. I am still hopeful of standing at the next election as a Conservative candidate."

Only a handful of Conservative constituency associations have still to pick a candidate, although a few MPs are expected to announce their

retirement at the last minute, and so create more vacancies.

Mr Simmonds, whose selection was blocked a week ago after his wife's opposition to blood sports became known, had his resignation accepted by the local party on Thursday.

"I have had private communications from a number of leading party figures within the last 24 hours, which I regard as confidential. No one has made any communication to me about having any difficulty of

getting a seat in the future as a result of what has happened."

He would not comment on whether he had been invited to put his name forward for consideration in other constituencies.

Mr Simmonds, who asked the South-West Cambridgeshire constituency association to put his name back on the list for selection or accept his resignation, said he was not surprised by the final outcome.

Kraft jobs fight for Europe

Unions at the Kraft Foods plant at Kirby, in Merseyside, yesterday announced a three-point plan to try to save 930 jobs at the plant.

The eight unions represented at the factory met at the offices in Liverpool of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers to elect an action committee to resist the company's plans to switch cheese production to Belgium and West Germany.

Mr Paul Gaffney, the union's area organizer, said they had decided to fight on a political basis. "Local and county councillors will be asked to exert pressure in the area, MPs, government departments and the Merseyside task force will be asked to exert pressure in Westminster and Euro MPs will be asked to aid us in the European Assembly."

Kraft says it is transferring production to the Continent for greater efficiency, leaving only

220 jobs at the Merseyside plant.

A busmen's strike at Doncaster widened yesterday when drivers from another firm joined the dispute over gypsy caravans. Bus crews employed by the Yorkshire Traction Company supported 457 colleagues with South Yorkshire Passenger Transport, who voted for an indefinite strike on Thursday.

Drivers employed by Trent Motor Traction Bus Company, in Nottingham, yesterday decided to strike from today in protest over the suspension of two drivers.

The two men had refused to transport cash takings to the bank, claiming that it was a security risk.

Workers at a television factory in South Wales yesterday voted to end a week-long stoppage after a closure threat from the company's Anglo-Japanese management.

Two thirds of the 1,200 manual employees at the GEC-Hitachi plant, at Hirwain, Mid Glamorgan, backed their shop stewards' recommendation to return on Monday.

The decision at a mass meeting means their pay will be frozen for a third consecutive year and they will lose about £6 a week on a revised bonus scheme.

Shipbuilding workers in Scotland may resort to occupying their yards if the 9,000 redundancies threatened by British Shipbuilders throughout the country are implemented.

The threat emerged yesterday at the Gowan yard, on the Clyde near Glasgow, where up to a third of the 3,500 workers face redundancy.

Unions representing 460,000 teachers in England and Wales last night accepted a 4.98 per cent pay offer from local authorities in London.

Nalgo's deputy general secretary chosen to take over leadership

By Our Labour Correspondent

The National and Local Government Officers Association (Nalgo), Britain's fourth largest union, has chosen Mr John Daly, aged 52, as general secretary to succeed Mr Geoffrey Drain, who retires in November.

Mr Daly, the deputy general secretary, was appointed by the Nalgo executive from a short list of five candidates and is expected to continue the tradition of moderate leadership in the union.

He has been Nalgo official since 1968, joining the union from the TUC's education

department. He has spent periods as organizer in the union's health and gas sections, local government service conditions officer and assistant general secretary, before becoming Mr Drain's deputy at the beginning of last year.

Others on the short list were Mr Alan Jinkinson, an assistant general secretary of Nalgo, Mr Gerald Christie, deputy general secretary of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, Mr John Ward, general secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants, and Mr Ernest Bazendale, Nalgo's dis-

trict organizing officer in the North-West and Wales.

Mr Drain is a member of the TUC's influential finance and general purposes and economic committees and is one of the TUC's six representatives on the National Economic Development Council. He has been general secretary for 10 years.

An early challenge for Mr Daly will be to seek ways of halting the decline in Nalgo's membership. The union has lost about 20,000 members over the last 18 months and its present membership stands at nearly 785,000.

Tories 'fail' over liberties

The "failure" of Conservative backbench MPs to defend civil liberties beyond the threat posed by the compulsory wearing of seat belts is attacked by the National Council for Civil Liberties in its annual report published today (Frances Gibb writes).

Ms Patricia Hewitt, general secretary, said: "The British Conservative Party has its own tradition of libertarianism, as well as a strong strand of tolerant liberalism."

But that tradition had been "commandeered by a right wing which cannot see any greater threat from the state to the individual than compulsory seat belts, while the liberal elements have been routed on virtually every issue on which they have made a stand."

In 1976, Conservative MPs joined the council in opposing extensive new powers of search and entry for Inland Revenue officials. "In 1982 the same MPs had nothing to say against proposed police powers which would be used against ordinary people and their doctors or social workers."

Thatcher rallies party's Westminster hopefuls

Continued from page 1

Speaking in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, she also launched an outspoken attack on the "loony women of Greenham and CND." They were the true heirs of the actions of the Nazis who thought Hitler could be held by preaching disarmament.

Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, weighed in with a salvo against "Thatcher's seven deadly promises." He accused her of breaking her promises to provide real jobs, cut taxes, not to increase prescription charges, not to double VAT, to give pensioners a fair deal, improve law and order and provide better education. It had been promises all the way about economic recovery from May 1979 to this week, Mr Foot said.

Earlier, in an independent Radio News interview, Mrs Thatcher again extolled the

Victorian values of self-reliance and a willingness to help others. She said she had been brought up by a Victorian grandmother, and continued "You were taught to work jolly hard, you were taught to improve yourself, you were taught self-reliance, you were taught to win, you were taught to be clean, you were taught to be honest."

"You were taught self-respect, you were taught always to give a hand to your neighbour, you were taught tremendous pride in your country. You were taught to be a good member of your community."

Those were Victorian values, the Prime Minister said, but they were also perennial values. People had been brought up with a sense of duty, which had led to a tremendous improvement in conditions in Victorian times.

Chanting peace women sent to court cells

Eight women who disrupted a court by singing and chanting peace songs were ordered to the cells by a magistrate who had repeatedly warned them about their behaviour yesterday.

Thirty-two women accused of causing an obstruction at Greenham Common, Berkshire, on February 16 were split into two groups at Newbury Magistrates' court. When the first 18 were asked their names others started to sing and chant.

The women were warned about their behaviour before eight were sent to the cells.

All 32 women were eventually conditionally discharged for 12 months and ordered to pay £10 costs for obstructing a 17th wide road being escorted by police to the airbase at Greenham Common on February 16.

Hebden and Plaskett lead in London chess

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

The ninth and last round of the Chilton Jubilee International chess tournament in London started at midday yesterday, an hour earlier than usual. After five hours play the lead was held by two British international masters, Mark Hebden and Jim Plaskett, with 6½ points, followed by the Hungarian grandmaster, J Flesch, and the Frenchman E Prie, with six points each.

Next came J Richardson with 5½ points and one game still to progress, followed by Arkell, Hartoch, Hawksworth, and Treppner 5½, Conquest, Douven and McKay 5 and one game in progress; Condie, Crouch, Manouk and Stebbings 5.

Hebden and Plaskett are certain to share first place and of the rest only Richardson can tie with those two, but his position is so inferior that he is unlikely to do so.

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Order	Constituency	Maj	Min	Order	Constituency	Maj	Min
1	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	101	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
2	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	102	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
3	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	103	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
4	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	104	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
5	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	105	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
6	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	106	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
7	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	107	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
8	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	108	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
9	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	109	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
10	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	110	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
11	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	111	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
12	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	112	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
13	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	113	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
14	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	114	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
15	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	115	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
16	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	116	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
17	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	117	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
18	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	118	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
19	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	119	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1
20	Stratford-on-Avon	137	6.3	120	Wellingborough	1,250	2.1

Gang hiding on train ransacks mailbags

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Sixty bags of first-class and registered mail worth thousands of pounds were ransacked yesterday by a gang who hid on an overnight mail train between London and Manchester.

The robbers are thought to have jumped from the train as it approached Crewe and may have escaped in a waiting car.

The Post Office said the full loss would not be known for some time, but police believed the gang fled prematurely, taking very little.

British Transport Police and Post Office investigators immediately began an inquiry into how the gang slipped past the train's security guard.

The robbery took place on the nightly service to Manchester which left Euston at 11.20pm on Thursday. When the train pulled in at its first stop at Crewe at 1.30am, Post Office staff who opened one of three mail carriages found that sacks had been opened.

The robbers had removed letters on a window and climbed into the locked carriage. They had left behind five nylon rucksacks stuffed with mail. A police dog brought in to search the area round Crewe station picked up a trail which led to the station's car park but then petered out.

There were several hundred mail bags in the carriage. British Rail said the train was loaded in an area not accessible to the public and loading of mail was always monitored by Post Office staff, who sealed the carriage.

The train had a dozen carriages stripped out to carry mail bags, newspapers and British Rail's parcel service. It had come from a Willesden depot, where it was kept between journeys.

The Post Office said there was no evidence that the bags contained anything of exceptional value. The maximum compensation for items in the registered mail is £1,750.

Science report Ice throws light on the Earth's structure

By the Staff of Nature

The remarkable notion that the steady drift of the North Pole towards eastern Canada is a consequence of the melting of glacial ice within the past 100,000 years has been put forward by W R Peltier and Patrick Wu, two scientists from the University of Toronto.

Its curiosity value apart, the proposal, if accepted, could shed important light on the structure of the Earth as a whole and, in particular, on the thickness of the crustal rocks lying beneath the continents.

The steady drift of the position of the North Pole amounts to about 5in a year in the general direction of the embouchure of Hudson's Bay into the Arctic Ocean. The motion is so slow that it can be distinguished from the much more prominent oscillation of the apparent pole's position called the Chandler Wobble only in records covering several decades.

Peltier and Wu have used data compiled by the International Latitude Service going back to 1900.

To explain all such discussions is the assumption that the geographical position of the North Pole is the point at which the axis of the Earth's rotation intersects the surface, so that movement of the North Pole towards Hudson's Bay will be mirrored by movement of the South Pole towards mid-Pacific longitudes.

Ice ages alter the argument because the accumulation of ice in a substantial icecap, entailing as it must the transfer of oceanic water to land-based ice, must alter the rotational characteristics of the Earth. Although the Antarctic and Greenland icecaps are now the largest, neither is as large as the great North American icecap at the peak of the last glaciation, called the Laurentide.

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Their most difficult problem is that of calculating the thickness of the Earth's skin, represented principally by the thickness of the continental parts of the crust, from the measured speed of the movement of the poles.

Their conclusion that the average thickness of the outer, relatively rigid, skin is greater than 250km will not readily win the hearts and minds of geophysicists, most of whom adhere to the view that the ocean floor is about 6km thick and that the less dense material of which continents are made is rarely more than 40km thick.

The snag is that a less thick outer skin implies a less rapid movement of the North Pole than has been observed.

Even so, the research now carried out is an important demonstration that a connexion can be established between the observed features of the Earth's rotation and its internal structure.

Source: *Geophysical Research Letters* March (vol 10, p 181), 1983.

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Kidnap girl freed after £10,000 is paid

By Richard Evans

A businessman's daughter who was kidnapped in the Irish Republic was released unharmed yesterday after her father paid a £10,000 ransom. Police were hunting the two armed kidnap

Radiation claim by widow

The Ministry of Defence is facing a possible damages action by a serviceman's widow who claims her husband died of radiation exposure while serving on Christmas Island, in the Indian Ocean, at the time of the British atom bomb tests in the 1950s.

The widow, now aged 63, of Wellington, Shropshire, has been given legal aid for the first stages of her case in the High Court. Her husband, aged 60, who was in the RAF, died of lung cancer in 1974.

She has instructed solicitors to take action against the ministry, seeking damages for herself under the Fatal Accidents Act and on behalf of her husband's estate under the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act.

GLC Tories are cleared

Conservative members of the Greater London Council who have been the subject of police inquiries into the conduct of Strongbridge Housing Association and planning applications have been completely cleared of criminal offences.

The police report has been backed by the Hillingdon District auditor, who says that a killing of any of the arrests on a Hillingdon council loan to the association, will be irretrievable. A separate investigation by Mr Dennis Hanson, a former deputy local government ombudsman, found no evidence of GLC members being unduly involved in consideration of planning applications or failing to follow council officers' advice.

Guard remanded on raid charge

A Security Express guard was remanded in custody until next Tuesday by Old Street magistrates in London, yesterday, accused of trying to rob his employers of more than £2m.

Alan Roostan, aged 29, of Ashmore Grove, Wellfleet, London, was charged with the attempted robbery of £2,241,965 from the firm's offices in Christopher Street, Islington, in March and with armed robbery of £133,238 from a Security Express truck in Tottenham High Road last November.

New shadow spokesman

Mr Donzil Davies, Labour MP for Llanelli, was appointed Shadow Secretary of State for Wales yesterday. He succeeds the late Mr Alec Jones and transfers from the number two position in the Opposition defence and disarmament team. Mr Jones, who was MP for Rhondda, died last month.

Mr Davies, aged 44, was Minister of State at the Treasury in the former Labour government.

Bristol charges

Derek Anthony Rossi, aged 27, of no fixed address, was charged in Bristol Magistrates' Court yesterday with the attempted murder of a detective constable and of with another person robbing Lloyds Bank, Bristol, of £35,108 on April 6. He was remanded in custody until next Friday. Another man has also been charged with robbing the bank.

Many victims of crime will lose right to compensation

From Peter Evans, Keele University

About half the victims of violent crimes will be excluded from the Government's criminal injuries compensation scheme because of changes in its operation, according to a working party of the National Association of Victims Support Schemes.

The reason is the raising of the lower limit for claims from £250 to £400 from March 1. "We are extremely concerned", Professor Dominik Lasok, QC, of the Faculty of Law, Exeter University, says in the working party's report. In addition, many eligible applicants may be deterred from applying by underestimating the value of their "pain and suffering".

The report, presented yesterday to the annual conference of the association at Keele University, Staffordshire, says that compensation orders are still made by courts only in a small proportion of relevant cases.

Research suggests that most victims are not aware of the possibility of compensation from either the board or the courts and therefore do not expect it. The working party wants more information about compensation to be provided.

The report also finds that considerable hardship is caused by the delay in obtaining final awards. It adds that immediate aid should be available when needed for the payment of expenses incurred and wages lost as a result of the offence.

Some members of the working party found that people in high crime areas often have difficulty in obtaining and paying for suitable household insurance. "As a general principle, we believe that compensation should be available to all victims who have suffered losses as a result of crime."

One option would be state insurance schemes. Alternatively, local authorities, housing associations and other landlords could be encouraged to arrange block policies, which would be available to their tenants on a voluntary basis. Premiums could be collected regularly with the rent or the rates.

Press seeks protection for unpublished material

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Mr Kenneth Morgan, director of the Press Council, yesterday welcomed the Government's climbdown over proposed search powers in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill.

But he said there was still concern in the media over the possible seizure of journalists' unpublished notes, pictures and film.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, announced on Thursday that in the light of widespread protests from doctors, church leaders and other bodies, he had decided to exempt from the search provisions confidential personal records held by the medical and other caring professions and their voluntary counterparts.

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, disclosed yesterday that there had been 598 representations on the Bill from organizations and individuals.

He is to meet representatives of printers, publishers, journalists and the Press Council on Monday to discuss changes the Home Secretary plans in order to allay the media's fears.

Under the bill a magistrate may issue a warrant authorizing police to enter and search for evidence where satisfied that there is reasonable ground for believing a serious arrestable offence has been committed, and that there is evidence on the premises that might be produced in a trial for that offence; and when it is not practicable to communicate with the owner.

With evidence held on a confidential basis, the police must seek an order from a circuit judge for the production of the evidence and the holder of the information may challenge the application.

Mr Morgan said at Sutton, Surrey, yesterday that press and public opinion is not limited to disclosure of journalists' confidential sources. "We are concerned, too, at the danger that reporters' general notes, unprinted copy, unpublished pictures, unshown film and unrecorded tape may be seized by the police."

If Mr Mayhew did not offer much stronger safeguards than now in the Bill, reporters and cameramen would be gravely restricted in their freedom to perform their jobs, he said.

Mrs Margaret Mair, head of the parliamentary and legal department of the Newspaper Society, which represents regional newspaper publishers, said the society was just as concerned about police powers to obtain evidence held non-confidentially.

"We make no distinction between confidential and non-confidential material; in the case of journalists, most material is held on a non-confidential basis."

She said the society wanted the same safeguards for non-confidential evidence as now applied to searches for confidential material. A police officer searching for the one was just as likely to come across the other and would be entitled under the Bill to take it.

Opponents of the Bill who made representations to the Home Office included the full range of medical institutions, from the General Medical Council to the British Medical Association and the various royal colleges, media unions, local authorities and voluntary organizations from Amnesty International to the Samaritans (the Press Association reports).

Legal objections were voiced by the Law Society and professional objections to the search and seizure plans came from the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies. Religious bodies opposed to the proposals included the Churches' Main Committee and the Board of the Division of Ministries in the Methodist Church. The list was disclosed by Mr Mayhew in a Commons written reply yesterday.



Mr Arthur Forder, the mayor of Devizes, Wiltshire, inspecting a farewell guard of honour yesterday with Major-General N. H. Speller (behind the mayor) by 125 men of 9 Ordnance Battalion. The battalion, which has been garrisoned for more than a century in the town, transfers to Corskham, Wiltshire, in June. (Photograph: Peter Trevnor)

Fears for public footpaths

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Miles of public footpaths will be closed unless the Government makes the Forestry Commission change its policy of "privatizing" nationalized woodlands. Local protests against the sale of more than 1,800 acres of woodland near Salisbury to a private buyer have led Mr Neil MacFarlane, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, to ask the commission for details of the proposed deal.

The national council of the Ramblers' Association will today debate plans to keep paths open when woods are sold. The commission is trying to raise £40m by selling parts of its vast estate of state-owned land, worth more than £300m.

The Government regards the scheme as a way of unlocking public funds held in the form of land and timber. The Opposition sees it as a means of selling desirable assets to private buyers who qualify for valuable tax concessions.

Most of the land sold last year consisted of dense conifer plantations with little importance for wildlife and recreation. This year the commission has begun to sell mixed woodlands which receive many visitors. The commission's policy is to allow public access to its woods but never to require private buyers to continue to keep the paths open.

A spokesman at the commission's headquarters in Edinburgh said yesterday that it did not disclose prices and buyers of its woodlands. But it was about to offer for sale three sections of Bentley Wood, to the east of Salisbury, with an area of more than 1,800 acres.

The commission has sold to private buyers more than 150 acres of woodland at Brooke, near Norwich, and almost 120 acres at Walton Wood, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire. More than 300 acres at Stapleford Wood, near Newark, Nottinghamshire, is about to be put on the market.

Forest of figures, page 6

Bishops back right of asylum

By Robert Newell

The Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales urged the British Government yesterday to continue to grant political asylum to conscientious objectors from South Africa. At their Low Week meeting at Westminster the bishops gave support to their South African colleagues' plea for the right of conscientious objection to military service.

Their appeal to the British Government reflected the fear that under proposed legislation many South Africans may seek asylum in Britain as an alternative to heavy jail sentences or long periods of monastic service for refusing military service on conscientious grounds. The English and Welsh bishops promised their pastoral support to any young South African seeking asylum for those reasons.

A joint statement on the bishops' proposed conference of church leaders is expected early in May. This will discuss the next step forward on the ecumenical front as well as Roman Catholic reservations about membership of the

British Council of Churches, and how they may be overcome.

Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, and the Archbishop of Liverpool, the president and the Most Rev Derek Worlock, president and vice-president of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference, explained yesterday that most of the four-day meeting had been taken up with considering new proposals for the reorganization of the conference and its commission.

A special one-day meeting of the conference on July 7 will consider the agenda of the Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome this autumn, which will discuss reconciliation and penance, including the controversial issue of general absolution without prior individual confession.

The new reorganization proposals, which were accepted in Rome, no longer call for the old structure of commissions to be completely swept away. Instead they will be slimmed down to committees of experts, each presided over by a bishop

but with an otherwise non-episcopal membership.

Several new committees will be added to cover such fields as family life, relations with non-Christian religions, home mission, public life, and the world of work.

The committees will be grouped into six departments, some closely mirroring their counterparts in other churches. There will therefore be a department for mission and unity and one for social responsibility, with areas of concern roughly similar to the Church of England's boards of the same name.

In that way the Roman Catholic church will still have expert committees covering such fields as ecumenism or international justice and peace. However, their membership will no longer be swollen, as with the old commissions, by the need to provide for a representative element.

The bishops also "positively endorse" the idea of occasional consultations of the whole body of English and Welsh Roman Catholics

Reminders of darker days come to light

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

The chilling fear of a German invasion of Britain in 1940 comes to life with a list of instructions to the people from the Ministry of Information (Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent, writes).

First, "Stay put", because you will be in greater danger if you try to move away from your home, and second, "Do not believe rumours", one of the main tactics of the Germans to demoralize the population of the countries they occupied.

This leaflet, on show in an exhibition which opens on Tuesday, is complemented by one prepared by the German invasion force, ready to be signed by the German Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

It states: "Provided that the population behaves in an orderly manner, the armed forces will respect person and property. Any ill considered act, any form of sabotage, any resistance, active or passive, against the German Armed Forces will be remorselessly punished by sentence of death."

Both are reminders of the Second World War and the exhibition in which they appear marks the fifth anniversary of the Wiener Library in London. Europe's main collection of material on fascism, Nazism and totalitarianism, and on racism and antisemitism.

The library now in Devonshire Street, Westminster, was started by Dr Alfred Wiener when he left Germany in 1933, the year of Hitler's rise to power, at first in Amsterdam and finally in London on September 1, 1939, the day that Hitler invaded Poland.

Last year a £1m appeal was launched, with Mr James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister, as president, and yesterday it was announced that the fund has reached half way.

Included in the exhibition, "On the Track of Tyranny", are many items never shown before, such as propaganda leaflets dropped by the belligerents behind enemy lines, "black propaganda" material smuggled into Europe, and other rare documents and photographs.

There is a list prepared by Gestapo leaders ready for the invasion, with 2,300 names on it, including that of Winston Churchill, Chartwell Manor, Westerham, Kent, for immediate arrest.

Drugs 'supergrass' flown to US by RAF

A former millionaire and international drug smuggler was flown out of Britain yesterday on an RAF jet normally reserved for important military officers.

William Mitchell, aged 31, one of the ringleaders of a cocaine smuggling syndicate, was taken under guard to Brize Norton air base, in Oxfordshire, and boarded a VC 10 for Washington with a military escort.

The authorities took the unprecedented step of asking for a military flight because of fears that Mitchell was to be the target of killers.

Mitchell, from Illinois, had pleaded guilty at the Central Criminal Court recently to plotting to smuggle cocaine from South America and bringing in a suitcase contain-

Penlee rescue attempt 'was not wrong'

From Our Correspondent, Penzance

A suggestion that the final attempt by Trevlyan Richards, the coxswain of the Penlee lifeboat, to rescue people from the Union Star may be said, with hindsight, to have been wrong, drew a swift response yesterday from Mr Geoffrey Brice, QC, for the Royal Maritime Lifeboat Institution.

Mr Brice, speaking on the twenty-first day of the Penlee inquiry at Penzance, asked Captain James De Coverley, a senior nautical surveyor with the Department of Trade, who made the remark the previous day, if he knew a single person who considered that Coxswain Richards might have been wrong.

Mr Ian Mayes, defending Mitchell said he would remain "at considerable personal risk" because of the "massive help" he had given about drug smuggling.

lifeboat and that the final blow to the Solomon Browne had been struck by one of the ship's heavy hatch covers. Counsel pointed out that witnesses had reported that the lifeboat might have got away from the coaster. Captain De Coverley said he had heard that, but it was not conclusive.

Mr Brice suggested that after making her final rescue run the lifeboat had got away from the coaster, only to be dashed against the rocks. Captain De Coverley said that was a possibility. But it had occurred to him that the Union Star might have capsized on the Solomon Browne, with a hatch cover striking the lifeboats.

Captain De Coverley suggested that some part of the boat, without life on board, might have drifted away with the engine still turning and the lights still showing. That would explain why the wreckage of the lifeboat was so widely scattered, and explain the sighting of lights.

Mr George Beattie for the Coastguard, said that some harsh things had been said about the coastguards during the hearing. He asked Captain De Coverley, "In your considered opinion, as a master mariner, do you think these are justified?" "No", the captain replied.

The inquiry continues on Monday.

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Tory seeks aid for dependencies

Sir Richard Attenborough's Oscar-winning film *Gandhi* gave a misleading impression of the quality of the Indian service during the period of British rule in India and it was very sad that a British actor should have given such a false and discreditable picture of his fellow countrymen, Mr Ivor Stanbrook (Bromley, Orpington, C) said when opening a debate in the Commons on dependencies of the United Kingdom.

The colonial service, he said, had never been given the credit it was due, in making a peaceful transition from Empire to self-governing Commonwealth and in providing millions of people in overseas territories with standards of skill and integrity of government which raised in most of Britain's former colonies nowadays.

It was a great pity that Sir Richard Attenborough's much praised film gave a misleading impression of the quality of the Indian service.

Members of the Indian civil service were of great intelligence, sound judgment, and were devoted to India. They left India with a legacy of imperial government of which they could be proud.

Britain should seek to remove the stigma of colonialism from those who sought a peaceful transition within the sovereignty of the United Kingdom. For some small islands and dependencies, the question of independence was out of the question.

Some other ways of securing democracy and security had to be found for those who had no chance of surviving on their own.

There was no case for direct representation of British citizens resident outside the United Kingdom in the Commons, but in my view it would be House of Lords provision ought to be made for British citizens resident outside the United Kingdom, including those in islands and dependencies, and the EEC dependent territories and the EEC.

He called on the Government to consider proposals for a closer permanent association with the United Kingdom for all such

territories which did not desire or were precluded from seeking independence on their own account.

Britain should not stand in the way of independence for Gibraltar if the people of that territory so wished, but they did not want it. It and the other dependencies should have a fair share of British resources. It should be made clear to the Spanish that Gibraltar was British and would remain so.

Spain's childish tantrums only made them look ridiculous in the eyes of the world.

Mr Tom Doherty (West Lothian, Lab) said units associated with the Falklands task force were not welcome in the Hispanic world. The Spanish Government had expressed profound displeasure and concern over what they called the inappropriate visit to Gibraltar. Pre-Falklands they did not speak like that.

It would be unwise for the House and country to imagine that all this was Spanish bravado. What precisely did Britain do if Spain applied considerable pressure and Spanish ships patrolled the Straits? Was it proposed that in certain circumstances Britain would dispatch the battle fleet against the Spanish Government?

This country had better start talking to the Spaniards seriously and soon and sincerely. Bad relations with the first democratic government in Spain since Franco were not in Britain's interests nor the interests of the people of Gibraltar.

The published diary of an Argentine soldier contained allegations against the conduct of the soldiers who were British mercenaries the Government should respond to the allegations.

Sir Bernard Braine (South-East Essex, C) said that when the fall story of the Falkland tragedy came to be told it would be seen that signal after signal was sent by Whitehall to Buenos Aires insisting that Britain did not really care. It was only fair to say that the Argentine authorities over the years were misled.

Boxed wine still largely 'foul' Which? says

Most boxed wine is still "unspeakably foul", according to the Consumers' Association's panel of wine experts, although two new arrivals have met with their approval.

Miss Jane MacQuitty, the editor of *Which? Wine Monthly*, who last year described almost all wine boxes as "mostly undrinkable", caused a great deal of controversy at the time.

She said yesterday: "We said then that there really seems no point in packing the cheapest, dullest wines into these boxes simply to appear competitive. The situation does not seem to have changed much since then. We recently tasted at least 30 bag-in-the-box wines and most were unspeakably foul".

But the panel has welcomed two new boxes which contain premium wines. They cost about £10 each and are offered by the Wine Society. Both the red and white are *Bordeaux Appellation Contrôlée* wines and "will probably stand the test of time", according to Miss MacQuitty. She added that claims of a four-month shelf life made for many of the other boxes were "far fetched, to say the least".

Wine boxes are still the fastest growing sector of the UK wine market and account for almost 15 per cent of light wine sold. The trade expects the figure to reach 20 per cent by the end of the year.



Clark Hanford, a sculptor, with models of Marilyn Monroe and Fred Astaire which he makes for sale. The model most in demand is of Miss Monroe in the scene from *Some Like It Hot*, where she stands over a hot air grill, in a flimsy white dress. He makes limited editions of the 33 in sculpture with a number on each base.

Bogus Sloane Ranger lived like a lord on Barclaycard

A penniless man posed as a peer and bought his way into high society with his Barclaycard, a court was told yesterday. He convinced titled young Englishmen that he was a member of the aristocracy and played his role so well that the society magazine, *Harper's and Queen*, used a picture of his twenty-first birthday party.

But yesterday Duncan Roy, a Londoner, aged 22, was jailed for 15 months for obtaining property and services by deception. Judge Robinson told him at Knightsbridge Crown Court, London: "You have lived a Walter Mitty existence for a few years. You have lived like a lord, mostly at other people's expense".

Mr Dermot Wright, for the prosecution, said Roy ran up huge bills entertaining his rich friends and when he was arrested owed Barclaycard nearly £10,000.

Mr Edward Lewis, for the defence, said "He resorted to living like a lord but he closed his eyes and shut his mind to the horror of having to pay for it. He desperately wanted to be a somebody, especially a member of the aristocracy."

He said Roy called himself Lord Anthony Rendlesham after working as a general assistant to Lady Rendlesham, who runs the Yves St Laurent shops in London. She dismissed him after three months.

"From that moment he was in a fantasy world of Walter Mitty. He claimed he was Lady Rendlesham's son and soon even believed it himself", Mr Lewis said.

"Roy mixed with those in high society and befriended many young titled Englishmen. It could be said he was scrounging off them. He even crumpled the voice of those known as Sloane Rangers and men about town."

Roy, aged 22, of Westbourne Park Road, Paddington, west London, admitted eight charges of obtaining property and services by deception between May and October last year and asked for 211 other offences to be considered.

Mr Scott Croft, who was pictured with Roy in *Harper's and Queen*, said after the case: "He said he was the bastard son of Lady Rendlesham. He was very persuasive, a real charmer and totally believable."

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or note.

David Sheppard flies out; Perón ban lifted

Fate of Galtieri hangs in balance

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

The fate of General Galtieri, former President of Argentina, and an internal trial in the city, continue to dominate the military debate on responsibility for errors during the Falkland Islands last year.

he attacked General Mario Menéndez, the man he appointed Governor of the Malvinas (Falkland Islands) last year, and three senior active service generals.

his favour. The honour tribunal, under the terms of the military code, must be presided over by an officer of the same rank as himself (lieutenant-general) and of greater seniority.

unionists and officials of her elected Government. Señor Deolindo Bittel, the Peronist party first vice-president, said she might now play an active role in the party's preparations for elections called October 30; but he noted that Señor Perón, now in exile in Spain, was still barred from holding public office because she was convicted after her overthrow of Embezzling state funds.

He left Heathrow to represent the Archbishop of Canterbury at the inauguration of a new province of the Anglican communion. He will arrive in Argentina next Thursday.



Mission of peace: Dr David Sheppard and his wife, Grace, leaving London yesterday for New York, where she is to stay.

Britons die as plane hits mast

Paris - Three Britons were killed and another critically injured when their aircraft crashed in thick fog yesterday near Boulogne (Diana Geddes writes).

How satellite was damaged

New York (NYT) - The \$100m (£67m) communications satellite deployed by the space shuttle Challenger appears to have been damaged by the rocket module that boosted it into a higher, abnormal orbit, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said.

Italy angry at Sofia jailings

Rome (AP) - Italian officials have condemned what they called the severity of sentences on two Italians convicted by Bulgaria of spying.

All smiles - by police request

Hongkong - Broadly-smiling portraits may be compulsory on the new issue of identity cards for Hongkong residents, Richard Hughes writes.

Journalist's wife in court

Johannesburg - Mrs Sue Sparks, wife of Mr Allison Sparks, the former editor of the Rand Daily Mail and a South African journalist, Mr Bernard Simon, appeared briefly before a regional magistrate here. The case was postponed until May 6, Michael Horvath writes.

Policeman kills 21 at funeral

Kampala (Reuters) - A Ugandan Special Forces policeman went berserk and shot dead 16 people at the funeral of a colleague last week before committing suicide, police disclosed yesterday.

Pinochet gibe

President Augusto Pinochet of Chile has accused the country's politicians of lacking morals. The remarks were apparently directed at a mid-party grouping which demand an end to military rule.

Rumasa charge

Madrid - The founder of the recently nationalized Rumasa holding company, Señor José María Ruiz-Matós, has been formally charged with fraud, misappropriation of funds, falsification of documents, and illegal export of currency. Spain is said to be considering seeking his extradition from Britain.

Five to hang

Nyeri, Kenya (AFP) - A businessman who hired four assassins to kill a political opponent has been condemned to the gallows with them.

Up and away

New York (AP) - A giant King Kong balloon, finally inflated on top of the Empire State building after six days of bad luck and bad weather, sprang a leak soon afterwards and deflated.

Rival still a challenge to Andropov

There are signs that Mr Konstantin Chernenko, who was defeated in the struggle for the party leadership nearly 18 months ago, still poses a challenge to Mr Yuri Andropov and wields influence within the party structure.

Mr Andropov, who manoeuvred swiftly and deftly to succeed Mr Brezhnev as party leader last November, appears firmly in control of soviet domestic and foreign policies. As in previous Soviet accession crises, on the other hand, the new leader has found himself restricted by having to placate other powerful figures and interest groups.

Mr Andropov has made only limited personnel changes in a party and government so far, but more are expected at the next Central Committee meeting and at the session of the Supreme Soviet due to take place in June.

Mr Chernenko, who is 71, was eclipsed politically after last November's succession struggle, when he not only lost to Mr Andropov but was obliged to nominate his rival for the post of party first secretary.

Nablus settlement date splits Israel

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Next Monday's celebrations to mark the thirty-fifth anniversary of Israel's independence promises to be some of the most controversial in the country's history after a move by the Government to use the occasion to inaugurate a new Jewish settlement near Nablus, the most densely populated Arab town in the occupied West Bank.

cancel the ceremony on a hillside overlooking Nablus, because settlement in heavily populated Arab areas was a subject on which "the entire nation is divided".

popularity for Mr Begin and a marked tendency for Israelis to become even more hawkish on the issue of compromise over the West Bank land conquered from the Arabs in 1967.

Under the heading "Peace now before it is too late", the announcement stated: "On Independence Day the Government is trying to create the illusion of national consensus around the construction of this settlement. We must demonstrate that a large part of the public does not agree and is determined to protest and combat this policy."

Oil slick meeting abandoned

Kuwait (Reuters) - Eight Gulf countries yesterday abandoned crisis talks on the giant oil slick threatening their shores as Iraq and Iran blamed each other for the debacle.

Mr Ali Shams Ardekan, the Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait, told reporters that the talks had foundered because Baghdad had insisted that Iraqis should be included in repair crews sent to Iran's Nowruz field at the head of the Gulf.

9% inflation expected in France

From Diana Geddes Paris

Retail prices in France rose last month by 0.9 per cent, bringing the total increase for the first three months of this year to 2.5 per cent. That compares with an increase in West Germany, France's main trading partner, of only 0.4 per cent over the same three-month period.



South Sea cyclone: A village of Taamotu in French Polynesia after being ravaged early this week. Tahiti and Moorea were also hit leaving 5,000 islanders homeless. France has sent emergency relief.

Pretoria is prepared for 'Gandhi' compromise

Johannesburg (Reuters) - A row over segregated audiences at South African showings of the award-winning film Gandhi intensified yesterday despite a Government minister's pledge to open charity premieres to all races.

Drought-hit S Africa to buy fodder

Johannesburg (Reuters) South Africa's maize and stock farmers face a grim winter and financial ruin in the wake of the country's worst drought this century.

El Greco icon found on Greek island

From Mario Mediano, Athens

Miss Melina Mercouri, the Greek Minister of Culture, announced yesterday the discovery of an unknown masterpiece by El Greco, in a church on Syros Island in the Aegean.

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates. Lloyds Bank Plc has reduced its Base Rate from 10.5% to 10% p.a. with effect from Friday, 15th April 1983. Other rates of interest are reduced as follows: 7-day-notice Deposit Accounts and Savings Bank Accounts - from 7.5% to 6.75% p.a. The change in Base Rate and Deposit Account interest will also be applied from the same date by the United Kingdom branches of Lloyds Bank International Limited The National Bank of New Zealand Limited

A survey conducted by the national maize producers' organization found that the average maize farmer could be in the red by up to £75,000 and most had been forced into insolvency.

Morals debate shakes Canada

An unusual New Year's declaration by a group of Canadian Roman Catholic bishops, attacking the allegedly pro-capitalist economic policies of the Liberal Government and warning of "moral disorder" in society, is still generating argument four months later.

Morals debate shakes Canada

himself, made clear when the statement came out that he did not appreciate the bishops' intervention. He called the authors "misinformed" and questioned the calibre of their economics.

The group of five MPs - four of them parliamentary secretaries or former parliamentary secretaries to Cabinet ministers - issued their own declaration, rebuking the bishops for compromising their spiritual authority and "failing to distinguish between the spiritual and temporal order".

Morals debate shakes Canada

The Government has for some time placed primary emphasis on battling inflation, while emphasizing that solving this problem is essential to beating unemployment. Inflation, though falling, is still at 7.4 per cent, while joblessness remains above 12 per cent.

Wage freeze will hold

Triumphant Hawke wins union and employer mandate to boost taxes

Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister who triumphed at the national economic conference which ended in Canberra on Thursday, said yesterday that he did not expect there would be any wage rises before September and little chance of tax cuts.

His new Labour Administration has won much more room in which to manoeuvre to reduce the budget deficit which is running at about \$9,000m (about £5,300m) with the endorsement in the final communiqué, to raise taxes if necessary.

The communiqué said the summit recognized that any need for increased aggregate public spending might need to be met substantially from taxation. That might require increases in taxation or less than full indexation.

From Tony Daboudin, Melbourne

The employers throughout the summit had repeatedly asked that the wage freeze be extended to the end of the year. The timing for an end to the freeze now rests with the Arbitration Commission and yesterday Mr Hawke said he expected there would be a national wage hearing before the commission in the second half of this year.

The summit, which lasted four days, ended with the representatives of the union movement and the employers almost filling over to praise each other's moderation.

For the case with which the two sides managed to reach consensus was an indication of the depth of the economic problem facing Australia, and for once both sides realized that the summit provided a unique opportunity for compromise.

Although Mr Hawke only delivered the opening keynote address, and then chaired the daily sessions of the summit, his presence was felt behind the scenes, particularly in the framing of the final communiqué.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen: Only dissenting voice.

The only dissenting voice was that of arch conservative, Mr Joh Bjelke-Petersen, the Queensland Premier, who said that Queensland would not put its name to the communiqué.

"Queensland is not prepared to put its foot on the paper," he said. Mr Hawke, closing the summit, said: "The agreement we have reached contains a basic framework and approach to arrest the decline of the economy, to arrest the expansion of unemployment, and in an on-going sense to put us on the path of sustained non-inflationary growth."

Among the main points of the communiqué were that the summit: Agreed that unemployment and inflation should be tackled simultaneously; Supported a return to centralized wage fixing; Reaffirmed that the unions' commitment to the maintenance of real wages was an objective "over-ride"; Said that employers recognized that during the time of wage restraint dividend rises would also be restrained and would recommend this to their companies;

Said that non-wage incomes should not move faster than wages. Professional bodies should exercise restraint and, where no authorities existed, groups of professional people should agree voluntarily to have their fees fixed by the Arbitration Commission; Declared that to ensure projected high economic growth was fairly distributed required a community prepared to "place a priority on employment and a restraint on self-interest".



King Juan Carlos pays court to Dali

Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister (left), greeting Queen Sofia in Madrid yesterday for the opening of what is thought to be the biggest exhibition of the works of Salvador Dali.

The opening was performed by King Juan Carlos (centre) who is being greeted by Señor Jordi Pujol, the President of the Catalan regional government, and Señora González. Dali himself was too ill to attend the ceremony at the Spanish Museum of Contemporary Art, Harry Debelius writes.

Instead the 79-year-old Catalan artist sent a message from the Puhol castle, where he has lived since the death last year of his wife Gala, asking Prince Felipe, the heir of the throne to represent him.

Contacted by telephone, the artist said: "This is one of the happiest days of my life. It is just as it might have been during the Renaissance with the show inaugurated by a king".

The exhibition contains not only paintings, but sculpture, jewelry and other creations. In addition, there is an accompanying exhibition of photographs by and of Dali and video displays of his work and his life.

The event heralds the expected donation by the painter to the state of all of the works still in his possession. M Robert Descharnes, Dali's secretary, said on Thursday he thought he would do so when journalists were given a preview of the collection.

Fleet visit affecting air traffic, Spain says

From Harry Debelius Madrid

The Spanish Government has sent "an urgent note of protest" to the International Civil Aviation Organization claiming that British manoeuvres off Gibraltar are interfering with normal air traffic, the Government confirmed here yesterday.

The Madrid daily *Diario-16*, insisted for the second successive day that the Royal Navy had violated Spanish territorial waters. The newspaper said the nuclear submarine *Splendid* remained in Spanish waters for nearly eight hours on Thursday. However, there was no immediate official confirmation of the allegation.

The respected Madrid daily *El País* speculated that the furor over the Gibraltar manoeuvres might induce Spain to postpone the next meeting on the Gibraltar question which was expected to take place between Señor Fernando Morán, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, on April 25 in Brussels.

The state-run radio network Antena 3 called on listeners to boycott British products and announced that it will play no more British-produced music until the fleet leaves Gibraltar. The Madrid Catholic daily *Ya* alleged that, in secret negotiations between Spain and Nato before the Socialists came to power last year, the British Government "favouredly viewed" a Spanish proposal to declare Gibraltar a Nato base under the joint command of Spain and Britain, and to allow the Spanish flag to be flown on the Rock.

Stoutly denying that he was apologizing, Mr Joe Bossano, Gibraltar's trade union leader, sent the officers and men of the Royal Navy taking part in Exercise Spring Train a message explaining the 48-hour blocking of their ships which ended yesterday afternoon, Richard Wigg writes. He said it was in no way directed against the members of the ships' companies, but was in protest over plans to close naval

Navy to the rescue

Two helicopters from the aircraft carrier *Invisible* have been involved in a rescue in the Gibraltar area. Late on Thursday night, the master of a semi-submersible oil rig under tow from Bilbao to eastern Spain radioed for help after sustaining back and leg injuries 130 miles west of the Rock. The Defence Ministry said, two Royal Navy Sea King helicopters from *Invisible* flew to the scene in 70 mph winds and poor visibility to evacuate the injured man.

The industrial action backfired in Gibraltar when it became entangled with Spain's diplomatic protests to Britain. The dockyard's civilian labour force will be working double time over the weekend to ensure the naval exercise begins as scheduled on Monday.

60 held in Palermo to halt killings

Palermo (Reuters) - Police have arrested 60 people in Sicily in the past 24 hours in an attempt to stop a wave of Mafia killings and protect magistrates from threats to their lives.

In one operation, police said yesterday they sealed off several areas of Palermo and detained 15 men suspected of involvement in the murder of Antonino "Nino the Rich" Sorci, a Mafia boss, earlier this week. He was one of 12 men shot dead this week in Sicily.

The latest outbreak of gang war is thought by investigators to be linked to a feud over profits from recent huge heroin trafficking deals with organized crime families in the United States.

Italy's Supreme Council for the Magistry is examining new ways of running Mafia trials to try to halt growing intimidation of magistrates and jurors. A six-member Supreme Council delegation is in Sicily to investigate the problem.

In the town of Carini, the local magistrate's robes were stolen and burnt before being dumped on his doorstep in a Mafia-style warning.

End Rock curbs, EEC insists

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Spain will not be allowed to join the EEC until it lifts its restrictions on crossing the Gibraltar frontier. Whatever the stage of the bilateral negotiations between London and Madrid on Gibraltar's status, Spanish entry into the Community would mean it could not maintain the tight control it has imposed at the frontier.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, made this clear in the Commons last Wednesday when he said it was inconceivable that Spain should become a member of the Community while any restrictions remained.

In fact, border blocks of the kind used by Spain run counter to the principle of free movement of workers and goods which is one of the main principles of the EEC.

Spanish entry to the Community, however, still looks a long way off. Before negotiations are complete, it could be that a decision about full Spanish integration in Nato will have been taken by a referendum, and this of itself could have the effect of reducing the present tension over the problem.

It has almost become traditional for European summit meetings to include a paragraph

or two in their final statement looking forward to Spanish membership of the EEC and urging negotiations to be pressed forward on the subject with the greatest speed.

Despite that, the expected date of Spanish entry into the Community has slipped exclusively ever since the application to join was first made on July 28, 1977.

Some thought at the time that the complicated negotiations might take only three years. Then a target date of January 1, 1984, was fixed. Now the best guess is that it cannot be before 1986.

The trouble is that negotiations have become inextricably intertwined with two of the more intransigent problems facing the Community. These are the future financing of the budget - including the British contributions problem - and the related matter of reform of the common agricultural policy.

In the Commission's view enlargement will of itself mean that the member-states must be prepared to let the Community budget grow beyond its present legal limits. Britain has said very firmly that it does not agree with this estimate and is likely to need a great deal of convincing otherwise.

PLO stirs Warsaw ghetto row

From Roger Boyes Warsaw

A new political squall has broken over the already sensitive Polish ceremonies marking next Tuesday's fortieth anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, an occasion that was supposed to ease the uncomfortable relationship between Jews and non-Jews and help Warsaw put an end to its international isolation.

News that Mr Foad Yassen, the Palestine Liberation Organization representative in Warsaw, planned to lay a wreath to the Jews slaughtered in the uprising prompted protests and dismay from the Israeli and American delegates.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the American Hebrew congregations, sent an angry telegram to the Polish organizers, who insisted that the PLO would not take part in the official ceremony.

Mr Yehuda Ben Meir, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister, said the Israeli delegation - comprising some 300 Holocaust survivors - would boycott the event if the PLO were allowed to attend.

More than a thousand Jewish delegates are expected to attend the ceremonies, which are being staged with much pomp. But misgivings have also been voiced by Jewish groups arguing that Poland had a record of antisemitism.

Although papers presented yesterday at a scholarly conference on Nazi genocide attempted to show that Poles played important role in protecting Jews during the last war, many Jews still believe that the Poles should have done more, and are likely to mention the 1968 antisemitic campaign.

The second criticism comes from a former leader of the ghetto uprising, Dr Marek Edelman, who claims that the ceremony is an undignified attempt to legitimize the government.

Dr Edelman, who is boycotting the ceremony, said yesterday that he is being followed by police and that the authorities have barred him from Warsaw - he lives in Lodz - "for his own safety." A number of Polish Jews had hoped to stage an unofficial commemoration service tomorrow.

Security is extremely tight in Warsaw for fear that Arab groups will strike at such a large number of prominent Jews.

A 'great moment' as Runcie meets Zhao

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, and Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, met briefly in Wellington yesterday. Among topics discussed was the cordial relationship between the Archbishop and the Church in China.

"This is a great moment for me," Dr Runcie said when the two met. Mr Zhao, who has been having talks with the Government on trade and international relations, said he looked forward to Dr Runcie's visit to China later this year.

Dr Runcie visited China briefly in January last year, but without meeting representatives of the Government. A delegation from the church in China subsequently visited London at the Archbishop's invitation. Dr Runcie is in New Zealand on a pastoral visit.

Mr Robert Muldoon, the

New Zealand Prime Minister, said after talks with Mr Zhao that the two countries were adopting an almost identical position on Cambodia.

China had made it clear that it supported Prince Sihanouk as the leader of the coalition government and not Mr Pol Pot.

Later, at a state luncheon in his honour, Mr Zhao said China would support whatever choice of government the Cambodian people made "in a genuinely free election under the supervision of the United Nations."

Mr Muldoon said the Chinese leader had expressed concern about the Soviet naval build-up in the Pacific and its use of Vietnamese facilities.

Peking gibe at Hanoi troop offer

Peking (Reuters) - China yesterday described as ridiculous Vietnam's pledge to withdraw some of its 180,000 troops from Cambodia next month, saying that, on the contrary, Hanoi has been strengthening its forces there.

The New China News Agency also dismissed Hanoi's call for "dialogue" between Vietnam and its Indo-Chinese allies on the one hand and the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) as a fresh diplomatic offensive aimed at subduing the Asean countries.

China and Asean, which groups Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, jointly back the coalition of Cambodian resistance groups fighting to end the four-year-old Vietnamese occupation.

The Chinese news agency said in a signed commentary that it was noteworthy that the dialogue proposed by Hanoi had one precondition, it must be conducted between "the two groups of South-east Asian countries" - in other words, the agency said, between Asean and the Hanoi-dominated Indo-Chinese states, including the Heng Samrin administration in Phnom Penh.



Taken for a ride: The Prince and Princess of Wales sampling stagecoach travel during a visit yesterday to an old Australian gold-rush town.

Royal couple in plane scare

From Grania Forbes, PA Court Correspondent, Bendigo, Victoria

The Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday flew in an aircraft considered by its captain to be potentially dangerous, because they did not wish to disembark thousands of people who had turned out to see them in Victoria, Australia.

The aircraft's flaps jammed as it brought the royal couple in to land at the small town of Bendigo and it circled for several minutes before the crew were able to lower the flaps manually.

The same thing happened when the aircraft, a British-built HS748 turbo-prop, had arrived at Ballarat to pick up the Prince and Princess. But the Prince, who experienced slight difficulty that they would fly in the aircraft. The

Princess was not told of the problem. A Royal Australian Air Force officer said: "The captain thought it not prudent to carry passengers. He considered it a potentially dangerous aircraft. The plane was considered insecure."

But Mr Victor Chapman, press officer for the royal couple, said there was "no anxiety, no problem and no danger".

When the royal couple arrived in Bendigo, 100 miles from Ballarat, the town was swamped with well-wishers. Earlier, the royal couple were challenged by an Australian trooper who claimed they were the "most wanted" people in the old gold rush area of Sovereign Town. The

town, now a tourist resort, staged a welcome in the manner of the days of 1854.

The highlight of the day came when the couple rode in a Wells Fargo-type stage coach through the dusty streets, surrounded by cheering crowds.

After their engagements at Bendigo the couple flew back to their Australian base at Woomargama on a back-up aircraft flown from Canberra. The aircraft which caused the earlier problems was understood to be under repair.

The final engagement of what has undoubtedly been a triumphant and happy tour of Australia is a dinner-dance at the Melbourne Hilton tonight. Tomorrow morning the Prince and Princess fly to New Zealand for a two-week tour.

US navy 'threat to Russia'

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Admiral Sergei Gorshkov, Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Navy, has accused the United States of increasing its naval power to the point where it can impose a blockade on Russia from the Pacific, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

Writing in *Pravda*, Admiral Gorshkov said the United States maintained more than 100 naval and air bases in foreign countries and was using them to interfere in the internal affairs of smaller nations. The Soviet Union, by contrast, had no bases on the territories of other countries.

Admiral Gorshkov said the American aim was "world domination". To this end America had built up its navy on a global scale. In the Pacific, American forces posed a threat to the Soviet Far East, especially following the stationing of nuclear-capable American bombers on Japanese territory.

American naval manoeuvres near Kamchatka last autumn were evidence of "aggressive schemes intended to establish methods of imposing a blockade on the Soviet Union from the sea", Admiral Gorshkov said.

It was no coincidence, the Navy chief wrote, that while American warships and aircraft carriers were patrolling the Sea of Okhotsk in the Far East, American and allied Nato warships were carrying out

naval manoeuvres in the Atlantic. The aim was clearly to close both Pacific and European waters in time of crisis.

The admiral said Washington had "over 180 warships" in the Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Western military observers said the *Pravda* article was to justify the continued expansion of Soviet naval forces and to draw attention to Moscow's

claim that it is threatened by American nuclear and naval forces in the Far East.

Observers found Admiral Gorshkov's contention that Russia's "defensive strategy" did not involve foreign bases puzzling, however, since the Soviet Union has several naval bases around the globe, with access to others, and maintains forces in Eastern Europe.

According to Diplomats here, the Soviet Union is launching a campaign to persuade Asian countries that Moscow is

"encircled" by American military might, and that Asian Governments should be more friendly to the Soviet Union.

Moscow is expected to formulate its new Asian policy in the light of the visit to South East Asia and Japan by Mr Mikhail Kapitsa, the Deputy Foreign Minister. It is his second tour of the area this year.

One of the main topics raised during his talks with Asian leaders has been Cambodia, where nearly 200,000 Vietnamese troops have been stationed for more than four years.

Mr Kapitsa's trip coincided with clashes between Vietnamese and Thai troops following attacks by Vietnamese-led forces on Cambodian rebel bases on the Thailand-Cambodia border.

Mr Kapitsa said in Singapore that if the countries of the Association of South-east Asia Nations (Asean) did not cease opposing Vietnam's policies in the region, then Vietnam would support insurgent groups operating against Asian governments, which are non-communist.

Asian diplomats here take this as proof that Vietnam's policies in Cambodia and South-east Asia generally are ultimately controlled from Moscow.

De Lorean defence claims a federal conspiracy

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Mr John De Lorean's defence team has claimed that the Internal Revenue Service, creditors of the De Lorean Motor Company, and the US Justice Department "have improperly shared confidential information among themselves and the news media".

Calling for a special hearing to consider the allegations, the defence, in new documents disclosed earlier this week in a federal court, noted "the re-

lationship now enjoyed among these groups, if investigated by the Government, would be termed a conspiracy".

News of the defence's hearing request came shortly after the Associated Press petitioned for access to the documents. Mr De Lorean, aged 58, who is free on \$5m (£3.5m) bail, is awaiting trial on August 9 on charges that he and two other men conspired to smuggle 220lb of cocaine, worth about \$24m into the United States.

British concern at Greek land ruling

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The British Government's concern over the possible consequences of a Supreme Court ruling on British owners of property in Greek frontier areas, has been conveyed to the Greek Government.

The Supreme Court last week ruled that the sale of an estate in the island of Corfu 14 years ago to a Greek company largely controlled by British interests, was null and void.

Thursday and among other topics broached the issue of the possible effects the court's judgment could have on British owners of real estate in Greek frontier areas.

The ambassador emphasised the widespread concern felt in Britain in this connection. Unconfirmed reports suggest that more than 1,000 Britons own property in Corfu alone through Greek limited liability companies.

Mr Petregrine Rhodes, the British Ambassador, called on Mr Yiannis Kapitsis, the Greek Foreign Under-Secretary, on

British embassy intends to press the matter further as soon as it has studied the full text of the court's ruling.

The Supreme Court's judgment dismisses an appeal by a Greek company controlled by Mr Jacob Rothchild, the London banker, against a decision of a lower court invalidating the transaction for the purchase of a 15-acre estate at Sytines in Corfu.

The tribunal ruled that since a 1927 decree bars foreigners from acquiring property in frontier districts.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

THE TIMES
DIARY

Second thoughts

When the Society of Authors, for the sake of legal privileges and bargaining power, registered as a trade union, Lady Antonia Fraser, its former chairman, resigned her membership. Her grounds, I gather, were that writers should not be in unions which might raise the threat of a closed shop and so on. Now, I learn, she has quietly rejoined. I notice, moreover, that she is among more than 100 signatories to a round-robin in the latest issue of *The Bookseller* demanding a minimum wage in the publishing houses of £6,500 a year (more than some authors earn). The others who have put their names to it include such militants (pardon the word) as Michael Foot, Michael Meacher and Tony Benn.

Heal thyself

The showroom of the Health Education Council in New Oxford Street has been displaying a sign that it is impossible to stay open at lunchtime, due to staff illness. Yesterday things took a turn for the worse. Callers to the outpatient department of the Middlesex Hospital were being told that the department was closed because everyone was sick.

Delayed action

Peter Danckwerts, professor of chemical engineering at Cambridge and a wartime bomb disposal expert, was scornful at the beginning of the week about the way London was brought to a halt for the unexploded bomb in the Thames. He believes the bomb may have been one of four dropped in daylight in late 1940, when its presence was finally discovered in the River Tube. It was seen to fall in the river without exploding by the steward of the Seven Seas Club for Master Mariners, a vessel moored on the north embankment. The Northern Line runs under the river at about that point. Danckwerts was sent into the Tube tunnel to consider whether, if the bomb exploded, it would flood. No one knew how long a delayed action fuse might be, and divers sent down to look could not see each other, let alone the bomb. The hunt was abandoned, the bomb supposed a dud, and the Tube reopened. Possibly it is now safe again for the first time since.

Old salts

Much as I admire the lifeboatmen, I am perturbed by some of the questions in a nationwide ballot the Royal National Lifeboat Institution is carrying out with a view to revising its rule book. One question asks whether coxswains should be obliged to take on service "anyone medically unfit", and another "anyone who has been drinking". Oddest of all though is a question asking what should be the preferred age for the retirement of coxswains and other officers. The options listed run from 50 to 90 years of age.

Wildlife Publications have received an order for three of their books: one copy each of *You Can Build a NASA Communication Satellite*; *You Can Build a Three Foot Model of the Space Shuttle*; and *You Can Build a Solar Powered Satellite*. They were wanted for the People's Republic of China.

Straight talking

The news that *Gay News* is to cease publication as a result of a breakdown in negotiations for its sale to the staff puts into abeyance a proposal by Michael Heath that he should draw a strip cartoon for the paper entitled *The Straights*. Heath already drew *The Gays for Private Eye*, but is reportedly embarrassed by complaints from aggrieved homosexuals.

Last year he signalled the end of *The Gays*, but took up his pen once more when *Gay News* responded with a cartoon suggesting that he had run out of stereotypes. Heath was interviewed recently for *Gay News*, and *The Gays* were missing from *Private Eye*'s last issue. But *Eye* editor Richard Ingrams claims to have stiffened Heath's resolve once more and *The Gays* will return. The *Straights*, meanwhile, must wait to see whether the *Gay News* staff can succeed in getting their affairs straightened out. (Sorry.)

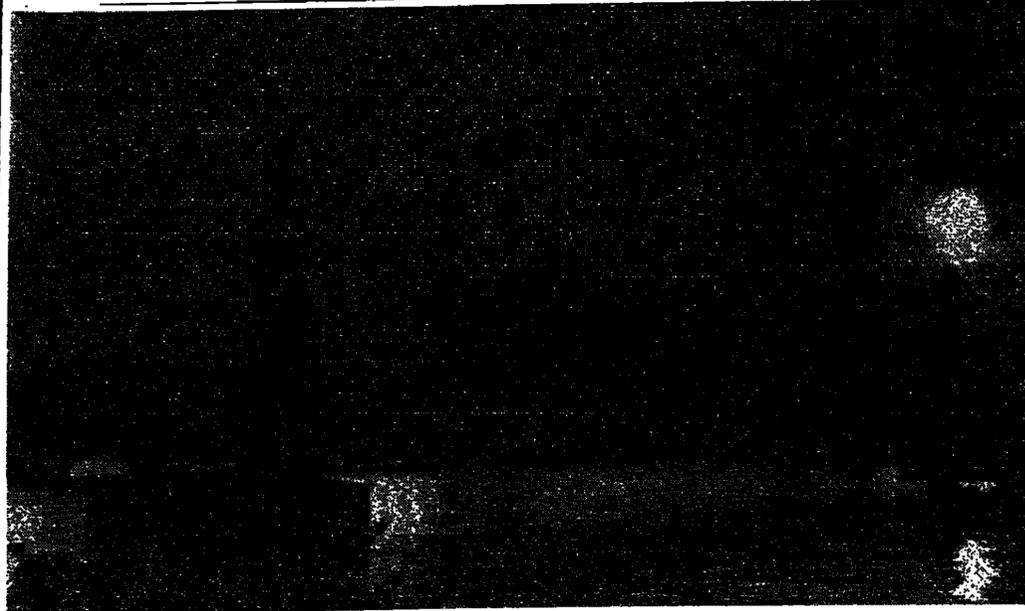
It really was

As I thought, no one is watching Channel 4 by the time it closes down. But some people do video-tape late programmes while they sleep, and so I can now confirm my story (a real clock-up, April 11) that on the night the clocks went forward the computer switched off Channel 4 automatically, cutting the late night film of its last 20 minutes. Two readers have written to thank me. They had found their tapes of *The Gun for Hire* ended abruptly in mid-action, and had assumed until they read my piece that it was their video-tape recorders which had gone on the blink.

Bournemouth's image as a bath chair society is being put to the test. A tourist delegation from Durban, South Africa, has challenged the town to a race between the gentile form of transport and their own counterpart, the rickshaw. But a search has revealed that Bournemouth's only chair is in the town's Russell Cotes Museum, and is unlikely to stand the strain of the race, planned for May 10. Now Bournemouth's tourism department is appealing to residents - young or old - who may have a roadworthy specimen secreted in an attic.

PHS

Gavin Stamp considers the future of a redundant London landmark



Battersea Power Station is finally about to become redundant. Later this year the two remaining active chimneys of one of London's most distinctive landmarks will cease to emit their waste products of burning coal. After more than 50 years of controversy and service what is to be done with it?

The debacle over the recent National Gallery extension competition does not suggest that a competition between developers is necessarily the best way to better buildings for the capital. None the less just such a competition is now being planned to solve the problematic future of Sir Giles Scott's most unlikely representative on the Environment Department's statutory list of buildings of architectural or historical importance.

DoE policy is that no listed buildings should be demolished until every possible alternative use has been explored. New uses for houses or commercial buildings are comparatively easy to find, and even possible with redundant factories or chimneys. But what alternative use can be found for Battersea's vast boiler room, two slightly less vast turbine halls, some control rooms and switch rooms, a few offices and four gigantic concrete chimneys? The Central Electricity Generating Board has asked a major construction company to hold a competition to find an answer.

Some argue that the building should not have been listed in the first place, but problems of re-use are of no concern to the department's inspectors, who are concerned to make an objective assessment of architectural quality or of historical importance. And in the history of electricity generation and of industrial architecture, Battersea has a very special place. It was the biggest power station in Britain when opened in 1933; it has also become a much loved - as well as hated - London landmark.

The Thames will not be the same without that familiar silhouette, and the journey into Victoria will be less dramatic without those walls of brick filling the window as the train straddles along the adjacent viaduct. When built, Battersea Power Station was widely admired as a "cathedral of power", a striking modern design for a very modern function. In 1938 for a group of "celebrities" approached by the *Architects' Journal* selected it as the second best modern building in Britain (first came the Peter Jones store in Sloane Square, third the London Transport headquarters). It was placed first by Charles Loughton and Rebecca West and was the only example proposed by the then Sir Kenneth Clark.

Hacking a way through a forest of figures

It may seem odd, but the Forestry Commission has just spent three years and almost £1m on counting trees all over Britain. First results suggest that there is about one lone tree, perhaps in a garden or on a street corner, for every member of the human population. But the commission wants much more detailed information than that. The census is meant to tell it how many of each type of tree there are and how many of them are dead. It is also supposed to tell the commission how much growing timber there is in the country, even though much of it is decorative and will never be chopped down.

The census is taken only about every 15 years, and the commission sees the work as proof that it is a seat of learning as well as the pinnacle of a nationalized industry which owns most of our commercial timber. Although most of the data still has to be processed by computer, the census has already met criticism. The commission claims that its survey of counties south of the Thames and west of Dorset shows that there is as much broadleaved woodland such as the much loved oak and beech woods now as there was at the time of the last big census in 1947.

The commission thinks that the census results so far support its claim to have produced a balanced post-war forestry policy with steady growth in the area of broadleaves and of conifers. Challenges have come from voluntary bodies such as the Woodland Trust, which says that

What shall we do with this cathedral of power?

Industrial buildings can be beautiful. The trouble with power stations is that they have very short lives. In the short, century-old history of electricity generation, the building type evolved rapidly and when Battersea was built power stations were considered to have a life of about 30 years. To have spent money on a solid, carefully designed and well finished permanent structure may seem absurdly short-sighted, but in the long run we are all dead and in the short term temporary buildings can be ugly and a daily affront. For 50 years now Battersea Power Station has succeeded in its original brief and, for the benefit of millions of Londoners, has succeeded in giving architectural dignity to a dirty, anti-social industrial process.

The irony is that Battersea was not wanted in the first place. When, in 1927, a huge new power station was first proposed for a prominent site by the Thames, the boroughs of Westminster and Chelsea petitioned the London County Council to stop it. The President of RIBA told the Prime Minister that the station's smoke would damage historic buildings and pictures in the Tate Gallery. The affair was debated in the Commons and permission was granted only when the Minister of Health had been satisfied that 90 per cent of the sulphur and impurities could be removed from the smoke (achieved by water and teak staks, or "scrubbers", in the corner towers).

This damaging controversy undoubtedly persuaded the London Power Company, in 1930, to wheel in a famous architect to try and mollify the opposition. This was Sir Giles Scott, who may have seemed an odd choice as he had not worked on an industrial building before, but as well as the Anglican cathedral in Liverpool and many churches, Scott had also designed the GPO's telephone kiosk and he went on to use his industrial style on the Guinness Brewery in Park Royal. At

Battersea, Scott, as consultant, had the job of improving the pedestrian elevations prepared by Messrs Halfday & Agate. This he did by carefully modelling the corner towers and "column" chimneys, by giving the great masses of wall a certain decorative drama with "jazz modern" fluting and by choosing a beautiful Worcestershire brick and a straw-coloured mortar.

Scott was not, however, responsible for the extraordinary and elaborate interior of the power station - extraordinary in that it could only ever be enjoyed by employees of the London Power Company. The great turbine hall of Battersea 'A' was lined by giant fluted pilasters faced in faience, while the control room has a jazzy, illuminated ceiling and walls of Ribbon Napoleon and Belgian black marble. Today the turbine hall has been stripped of its huge turbines and the floor has been removed. Only the control room is left intact and, with its control desks and formidable ranks of dials and switches, is well worth preserving. But what for?

Ideas for the building's future are, fortunately, not lacking. First in the field was Save Britain's Heritage, ever anxious to show that conservation can be practicable and profitable. The architect Martin Richardson was commissioned to undertake a feasibility study and in his report, published in 1981, he showed how the building could be made into a vast indoor sports arena, combined with an engineering museum (the Science Museum certainly needs to expand). The surrounding land, once covered by coal trucks and coal, could be used for housing and shops. Such a use might please the local borough, Wandsworth, as the area between the power station and Nine Elms market is occupied both by new industry and by housing. Other ideas include a giant discotheque and an incinerator for rubbish which would generate electricity.

Save's report seems to have had the desired effect, for the Central Electricity Generating Board is showing a more positive and imaginative attitude to its redundant buildings than other nationalized industries, such as British Rail, and is holding a competition to elicit other ideas for the future of Battersea. Details of this will be published in the next few weeks, but the CEGB is not organizing this themselves. Rather it has asked the Taylor Woodrow group to organize the developer competition to find a viable use for the listed building, and it is reassuring to learn that the retention, unaltered, of the exterior is regarded as axiomatic.

I trust that Taylor Woodrow were not chosen because of their success in "conserving" St Katharine's Dock. There they began with five warehouses; today there is just one left. The judges of the competition have yet to be announced. If I was a judge I fear I would favour a scheme that included the emission of smoke from the chimneys.

So Battersea may well be preserved. But is it the only power station worth keeping, and is it the best? Dunston "B" power station near Newcastle was built in 1930-33, exactly contemporary with Battersea, but there the engineers Merz & McClean adopted a very different architectural solution. Instead of a monumental masonry exterior, the turbines at Dunston were covered by an elegant, functional cube of glass and steel, an idea more in tune with modern thinking. But the Dunston chimneys have also ceased to smoke and the power station lies cold, unlisted and unloved in the industrial wastes of Gateshead. It deserves attention.

And then there is Bankside, opposite the City, begun in 1947 and finished only in 1960. Yet this, too, will soon be redundant and it was Scott's masterpiece: the only complete realization of his ideal "cathedral of power". Battersea was a compromise with which he was never quite happy; at Bankside he gathered up the flues into one great campanile. It is a beautifully composed and detailed mass of fine brickwork and in much better condition than Battersea. It ought to be listed and it could also be found an alternative use. I hope the CEGB are thinking of its next competition.

The author is chairman of the Thirties Society and the author of *Temples of Power: a book of liturgies of London's electricity generating stations by Glynn Boyd Harie (Cygnets Press, Burford, Oxon).*

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Mike Locke: "Nice to have the information"

the new and old censuses were conducted in ways so different that comparisons are invalid.

But the main opposition has come from the Nature Conservancy Council, a wildlife quango which feels that the commission's claim is over-optimistic.

Nobody quarrels with the commission's statistics because nobody else has sent 15 researchers into the fields and woods of Britain for three years. Only the commission has had the time and money to swoop-over parks and gardens in its own aircraft to photograph their leafy contents.

The press conference at which the commission produced its first results was ignored by most of the press. The few reporters who appeared were treated to a learned exposition about digitizing and laser

techniques. While the experts were speaking my thoughts drifted frivolously to the silent film in which Charlie Chaplin played an American seeder who disguised himself as a tree to escape gigantic Germans. With branches for sleeves he fled through a forest as his confused pursuers plunged their bayonets into unmistakably wooden trunks. A few pranksters equipped with such camouflage in recent years could have played havoc with the commission's census work.

Woodlands were the easy part of the census since the commission owns many of them and keeps records of most of the rest. Trees outside woodlands had to be counted, sometimes with aerial photographs and sometimes by investigators on the ground.

In the south-eastern counties and south London they found just over 10 million trees outside woodlands, or about one tree for every person in the region. They found well over 300,000 elms, of which 206,460 were dead, and about 2.5 million oaks, of which almost all were alive.

What was it all for? Mr Mike Locke, a veteran of the 1947 survey and now the commission's census supreme, said that one of the surprises in the latest investigation had been the large number of fast-growing cypresses in gardens. "You only have to take a train or bus journey to see how many cypresses there are," he said.

But he insisted that there was more to the census than spending three years discovering something that could be spotted from a train window. Lone trees made an important contribution to the appearance of the landscape, and powerful forces wanted to know how many there were. "The Department of the Environment and the Countryside Commission thought it would be nice to have that information," Mr Locke said.

The commission's computers are producing a formidable barrage of information. Nobody disputes, for example, the commission's claim that Berkshire has 1,660 lone conker trees with trunks between eight and 12 inches wide in diameter. The council claims that if any comparison can be made between the 1947 figures and the new ones, it is that the broadleaved area is slightly but distinctly smaller in the south-east, and not the same as the commission claims.

Mr George Peterken, the council's chief woodland specialist, thinks it unfortunate that the new census does not distinguish recently planted broadleaved woodlands from ancient woodlands which date back to the Middle Ages. "There has been quite a loss of ancient woodland since the war," he said. "The broadleaved woodland which has replaced it is not so good a habitat for wildlife."

Hugh Clayton
Environment Correspondent

David Butler

Scrap, cackle and pap

Breakfast television may not be drawing in the audiences it hoped for, but it may offer a powerful new element in the next election campaign, as politicians rush to be consumed with the breakfast cereals. Few people appreciate how much the media have transformed electioneering in the last generation. And what has happened so far may be only the beginning.

In the early 1950s, when television and radio blacked out general elections, the voters got their campaign news through the press. Eighty per cent of people saw one out of the 10 very partisan Fleet Street newspapers, which filled their columns mainly with reports of the leaders' speeches at great evening rallies. Challenge and response was lacking. There was very little intermeshing between the arguments of the two sides. Each seemed to be manoeuvring against straw armies of their own devising.

The scene changed sharply in 1959. Radio and television began to report the campaign for the first time and to provide occasions for the rivals to meet in argument. These party confrontations before an audience watching in the quiet of their homes tempered the customary excesses of political rhetoric and, together with dutifully balanced news coverage, had the effect both of sharpening and blunting the political argument. On the one hand the two sides were forced to answer each other's case; on the other hand the public were taught how much less divided were the parties than they had thought; listening to two Oxbridge smoothies discussing the economy with studied reasonableness, it was much harder to divide the rivals into heroes and villains.

A second phenomenon of 1959 was the coming of the morning press conference. Labour's General Secretary, Morgan Phillips, had been sidetracked into doing this routine chore, which in the past had dealt merely with details of meetings and leaders' tours. He seized the opportunity brilliantly and made headlines day after day, stealing unwonted column-inches in the most Tory of newspapers. The Conservatives had to follow suit. And so, ever since, to the delight of the media, Smith Square has seen press conferences every morning of the campaign at which party leaders set out the themes of the day and answer the challenges carried from the other side. The battle lines are set here and journalists realize that they can cover the election from London; they no longer have to secure all their stories by pursuing the party leaders around their exhausting provincial circuits.

The party leaders, too, have learnt that they win coverage not by a measured argument so much as by a quick quote that will grab 60 seconds of a news bulletin, or even by wholly ephemeral pseudo-events, photogenic happenings like walking through a shopping centre or cuddling a calf.

Over the past 20 years the process has been increasingly speeded up. Sir Robin Day conducts a 9 am phone-in on radio and any slip by his victim provides grist for the 10.30 press conference. That supplies the copy for the midday bulletins, which will often offer a platform for leading spokesmen on each side to make a riposte, which in turn will be dealt with on the early evening news and the later discussion programmes, in time for a final wrap-up in the 9 and 10 o'clock bulletins. Public meetings now make less and less contribution to the

reporting of an election, and the big rallies are set earlier and earlier so that the quick film clips can be processed for the screen.

Breakfast television, it is to be feared, will further elongate the campaigning day. Leading figures, bleary though they may be, will not be able to resist the chance of nationwide exposure and, however small the audience, what they say on each channel will be monitored and provide material for the next broadcast or press conference.

At first sight, those who care for democracy should rejoice at these extended opportunities for debate. The more outlets there are the more escape is possible from the usually excessive focus on the top leaders of the parties; and the more diversified will be the weighing-up of the issues. But it does not work like that. There is a herd instinct in media coverage which encourages everyone to plagiarize everyone else and to follow the same story. There is also a lust for news that is new. Politicians find they can win headlines by saying something fresh, even if it is trivial; an accusation, a refutation, a counter-accusation all can sound original, even if they are worth no more than a quip at question time. The quick "quote" always seems to triumph over the reasoned paragraph. Old truths and fundamental issues can be ignored as boring, while new trivia wins bold type.

The instant capping of the rival camp's stories has become the name of the game. No news editor will ignore an effective put-down from one side that responds to a trumpeted statement from the other. Occasionally there is some substance in the tit-for-tat but usually it involves the most ritual of point-scoring. There are plenty of instances of stories with little intrinsic interest that are kept alive only by a dreary exchange of challenge and reply of the sort that, by current media conventions, demands continued coverage.

Last month I watched an Australian election in which this process reached a new level. Each side monitored the other and produced its instant response. When Mr Paul Keating, now Australia's Treasurer, admitted on a Melbourne phone-in that he was not absolutely certain that everything in Labour's economic programme would work out, only 10 minutes elapsed before Mr Fraser was making fun of him in Perth, 2,000 miles away. But this story, which led the bulletins for a few hours, was dead by the next day.

When the media report almost hourly, and insist on novelty, and when the politicians play up to their demands, the election is likely to become more and more trivialized. And then, as happened in Australia, the media will turn and bite the hand that has been feeding them; the editorials and the columnists will complain of the emptiness and the low level of the campaign. What is the politician to do when fundamental, carefully argued arguments of the case for socialism, or for monetarism go unreported, while well-honed rudenesses and flip accusations win attention? At election time, above all, a politician wants to be heard and he will speak in whatever terms get listened to.

The more that an election is turned into a continuous high-speed exchange that runs from crack of dawn to midnight, the more the democratic debate is likely to be demeaned.

The author is a Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford.

Katie Lander

Not quite pukka but what a chukker

Elephant polo is not, as one might imagine, a legacy of the Raj but one of the newest international sports, admittedly a minority one.

On April 1, appropriately enough, six teams assembled in Nepal's Chitwan National Park, 75 miles south-west of Katmandu, with the Himalayas as a dramatic background, for the first World Elephant Polo Association championships. The teams, representing India, Nepal, Scotland, England, British Gurkhas and the US, were the Rajshahi Ramblers, the Tiger Tops Tuskers, the James Manclark Irregulars, the Edward Hanson (Hanson's Own) and the Pan Am Jumbos. The spirit of prep school playing fields quickly descended.

The players, housed in tents with no electricity, no hot water and no shortage of gin, were cheerfully woken at 5.30 am for bacon and eggs. As the English team blearily pushed open the flaps of their tents, they were amazed to see their Indian opponents one by one taking their splendid red turbans from the head of their captain. Maharaja Sultan Singh had really mastered the art of wrapping their intricate head-dress and had won the team contract.

The polo field, better known locally as the Meghauy airstrip, was a 30-minute Land-Rover ride, fording two rivers - or a two-hour lumber away, depending on whether you were a player or a played-upon. The game required three men on each elephant, a sort of team within a team, with four beasts on each side plus one for the referee. Up front was the mahout, the animal's keeper, who, like Dr Dolittle, talked the elephant through the game. The official player sat behind, precariously perched on a straw-mattress waving an extraordinarily long polo stick. Another mahout at the back controlled the rope around the player's waist, simply to keep him on board.

The WEPA, founded by James Manclark, British bob-sleigh champion and polo player, initially assumed that a larger ball would be needed; and so a consignment of footballs was sent for. The game then changed from elephant polo to

elephant football-bursting. Traditional polo balls were quickly substituted. The sticks, ranging in length from 85 to 100 inches, according to the size of the elephant and player, had so much give in them that they were known by the pukka chaps as "whippers".

As the five-day championship developed, tactics improved. A language evolved between player and mahout, with the mahout's shirt collar used as a directional joystick. A sharp tug in one direction ensured that a message would instantly be transmitted to the elephant. Star elephants emerged. As the elephants travelled at only a meagre two miles an hour, there was not too much time in a 10-minute chukker for sophisticated formations.

Each day crowds of bemused villagers surrounded the airfield to watch the teams, with their elegant outfits and eccentric ways, battle to become Elephant Polo Champions of the World.

Four days of serious play culminated in a final contest between the Pan Am Jumbos and the Tiger Tops Tuskers. Thousands surrounded the field to witness the clash. The real stars of the show, the elephants, had clearly been up all night being plastered with make-up. The toss for elephants was made, and once the field was cleared of droppings from the semi-final, play commenced. The heat was sweltering. The visiting supporters shouted and screamed while the Nepalese calmly squatted around the edge, sensibly keeping cool under large black umbrellas. A few lucky ones had a grandstand view from the top of the airstrip's mobile staircase. Champagne flowed when the Tuskers emerged 2-0 winners, proving that polo experience at Windsor Great Park does not count for much where elephants are concerned.

The next day, peace and quiet returned to this jungle retreat. The elephants were back on their jungle safaris in search of the Royal Bengal Tiger, the great Indian one-horned rhinoceros and the sloth bear. The long journey home. And already there was talk of a camel polo championship in Jaipur.

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TIMING IT RIGHT

The constitution provides a framework of quinquennial parliaments. It was seven years until it became five in 1906. The five years are not a set term but a maximum. The prime minister may at any time advise the sovereign to dissolve parliament. The circumstances would have to be very special these days for the advice not to be accepted. The prime minister's discretion has been used since 1945 in such a way that the average length of a parliament, the interval between general elections, has been three years and five months.

So we have five-year parliaments in theory and three-and-a-half-year parliaments on average (or four-year parliaments if the "second bite" elections in 1966 and October 1974 are ignored). The span is too short for the health of the system. One of the defects of the British political system since the war has been the frequency of changes of direction in government policy. Not all the chopping and changing is due to general elections, nor do all general elections cause policy to swing. But the steady compression of the parliamentary term has a tendency in that direction. The tendency ought to be resisted.

The political introduction of beneficial changes in public arrangements and public attitudes needs as much time as is available, if they are to be lasting. The present Prime Minister is often quoted as saying that her government came in with a programme for two parliaments. The truth of that is to be found not only in the volume of legislation implicit in the programme, but even more in the need for a stable framework in which policies, reforms and ideas may become rooted and grow.

There is therefore a presumption against an early dissolution of parliament. It may be negated by particular configurations of politics, but none of the familiar ones applies to this government at this time. It is in no danger of overthrow or collapse from within. It is firmly seated and its policies are maturing slowly but satisfactorily according to its own criteria. It shows less sign of exhaustion of persons or ideas than is usual at this stage of the political cycle. No novel issue of great moment has arisen that might be thought to require the judgment of the electorate.

All the same, serious reasons that are distinct from party advantage are now being advanced in favour of a June election, ten or eleven months before time is up. Expectations have been allowed to develop so far, it is said, that it would now be unwise to disappoint them.

The perfume of these expectations is certainly overpowering inside the Westminster hothouse since it filled up again after the Easter recess, and there is a whiff of it further afield. But it could be rapidly dissipated by a categorical disavowal by the Prime Minister.

She has so far declined to take any of her many opportunities for disavowal, most noticeably when she went on the air after her return from the Falkland Islands in the new year, a pilgrimage that set the rumour running. Presumably she is happy to see the speculation spread. But unless she is going to go on the strength of the local election results that will be in by early May she will have to dampen speculation then.

A related reason given for an early poll is that the parliament has now run its "natural" course, that the shadow of the election inhibits any further major and therefore controversial legislation, and that the political direction of the country will mark time for a year while all the actors suffer from electoral neurosis.

It is of course part of the case for full-term parliaments that the later stages should not be wasted by paralysis. It is true that if the election is not held until next spring half a session's prime legislative time will be mostly lost. But legislation is not the sum of government or even its primary function. Foreign policy is largely conducted without it and in so far as economic policy requires it, fiscal enactments and instruments should present no problem up to the very end of the parliament. If ministers are so mesmerized by the approach of an election that they lose the power of decision and capacity for action, far better that they should run for it now. But there is nothing in the system or the present composition of politics to deprive ministers of the capacity to govern effectively in the last year of this parliament if they are of a mind to do so.

The "run on the pound" argument for an early election looks even less compelling now than when it was trotted out in January. It is now clear that there were sufficient objective reasons for the fall of sterling from its November level independently of any fraud. Mr Peter Shore may have given the market a shove, but his illustrative devaluation. Besides, it is now widely accepted, though ministers like a presentational difficulty in saying so, that the fall there was caused by Mr Shore's precipitating it a boon to the economy.

A more substantial reason for June is the state of the negotiations at Geneva about the

deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe. The Kremlin, likely enough, will not move towards a compromise position at least until it has to resign the hope that political failure will frustrate Nato's contingent counter-deployment of cruise and Pershing II missiles; and the Kremlin will not resign that hope until all possibility of there being a Labour government in Britain by May 1984 is removed. At best therefore the prolongation of political uncertainty in Britain would delay a movement into constructive negotiation at Geneva, at worst it might preclude it altogether.

That argument deserves to be taken very seriously in weighing the options for a dissolution, but it falls short of being decisive. The reluctance of the Russians to enter the area of compromise before the last possible moment is probably already established irrespective of their calculations about British domestic politics.

There remains an argument in which considerations of national interest and party advantage coalesce. On top of their familiar differences in social and economic programmes the Labour and Conservative parties diverge in respect of fundamental questions of defence and foreign policy — nuclear arms and membership of the European Community. These matters go deep into Britain's defence posture and the structure of its alliances. The fact that they are now in contention invests the next general election with an importance all its own. To anyone who puts a high value on Britain's emplacement in the Community and its role in the western strategy of nuclear deterrence, that might seem a compelling argument, to the exclusion of others, in favour of an election at whatever moment is most likely to produce the desired result. June?

Inconveniently, the argument fails its only practical test, since it is far from plain when that moment of maximum advantage is or is to be. The entrails, which now include those of the Liberal/SDP alliance, are as difficult to read as ever.

The decision is by convention the Prime Minister's. If she goes for June she will not be without precedents. But there is no present writing on the wall to contradict the presumption that the parliament should be allowed to run its full course; that it is better, for the good governance of the country, that the normal term within the five-year limit should be stretched not compressed. That, in all likelihood, will have been Mrs Thatcher's first view of the matter. She should be guided by it.

RECOVERY WITHOUT INFLATION

Claims that economic recovery is about to begin have been made several times in the last three years. So far they have always been wrong. It has been a trustworthy rule that the economy would show symptoms of renewed weakness as soon as a government minister made a speech heralding signs of stronger demand and activity.

But optimistic remarks are now coming from an unexpected quarter. Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, predicted on Thursday that manufacturing output would rise by 3½ per cent or more over the next 12 months, a rather higher figure than that forecast by the Treasury. The CBI's new confidence is significant since in the past it has been consistently and, in the event, rightly — more cautious than the Government about business prospects. Definite, although as yet not very impressive, confirmation of economic improvement came with the publication yesterday of the February industrial production figures, showing a 1 per cent rise on January.

A revival may not, however, be an unmitigated blessing. The recession seems to have instilled some good new habits in industry, notably a willingness among workforces to accept more advanced technology and union preparedness to relate wage demands to companies' ability to pay. There is a fear that recovery will cause a return to the bad old habits associated with prosperity.

The twenty-five years to 1973 saw not only increasing affluence, but also widespread resistance to change and poor labour relations, with an unfortunate tendency in many basic industries for crippling strikes to break out over trivial issues. It is ominous that the recent upturn, which is still at a very early and tender stage, should have been accompanied by disputes in the British Steel Corporation and British Leyland very similar in

their pettiness and futility to those in the 1950s and 1960s.

There is a more general concern. The Government's overriding priority has been to reduce inflation. It has been prepared to see the worst recession since the 1930s in order to change attitudes and persuade wage-bargainers that macroeconomic policy will not accommodate excessive pay awards. But will the favourable shift in attitudes be reversed if the economy starts to move forward? Is higher inflation the inevitable associate of more buoyant economic conditions?

The evidence until now suggests favourable answers to these questions. Wage awards continue to decline and inflation, which should have been stimulated by the pound's depreciation on the foreign exchange, has been more or less steady in the last few months. But it is hard to be certain that these are anything more than standard cyclical patterns.

The hope on this occasion must be that the downturn has been so severe, and the degree of slack in the economy has risen to such alarming levels, that behaviour will be different from that in a normal recovery. There is, indeed, one fundamental argument which suggests that behaviour will be different. It is based on the familiar Friedmanite doctrine that, because the rate of wage increases will rise continuously if unemployment is beneath the so-called "natural rate", it is pointless and damaging for governments to manage demand in pursuit of a hypothetical full employment target.

This idea is generally regarded as always having a gloomy and pessimistic message for policymakers. In its scepticism about the ability of governments to change economic performance for the better it seems to be a characteristic product of the dismal science. But, in present circumstances, its implications are unquestionably more encouraging than many rival theories.

The point is that the continuous decline in wage settlements over the last three years suggests that unemployment today must be much above the natural rate. Moreover, as long as unemployment remains above the natural rate settlements will keep on falling. If, for example, the natural rate is two million and unemployment drops from three million to two-and-a-half million, there would still be so many people looking for jobs that employers would continue to exert downward pressure on wage awards. There could be a phase — and possibly a prolonged phase — of both falling unemployment and falling inflation. This would come to an end only if unemployment was cut to beneath two million.

After the progressive deterioration in economic performance over the last three decades it may seem foolhardy to suggest that there could come years of falling inflation and falling unemployment. But this benign combination has become possible only because the economy now suffers from such an appallingly high level of unused productive potential. The improved prospects — and many observers would deny that they exist — should not be a cause of any particular jubilation.

If a better outlook for jobs is to be reconciled with further declines in inflation it is essential that the Government does not trumpet the arrival of recovery too loudly. Awareness of an upturn may, ironically, tend to shorten its life by reviving inflationary expectations. Rampant inflationary expectations aggravate collective bargaining, and are the enemy of both price stability and high employment. Since the Government cannot in the long run do anything — except by improving the workings of the labour market — to promote full employment anyway, it would be best if ministerial statements continue to emphasize that the main official economic responsibility is the provision of a sound currency.

Not so neutral at the CABs

From Mr J. A. Millson
Sir, Mr Jonathan Davies (April 14) has completely misunderstood what the advice is about the citizens' advice bureau as all about. The Minister is not criticising the work done by the bureau, or "attacking" the organization. Indeed, in his statement in Parliament (which Mr Davies clearly did not read) he went out of his way to pay tribute to the valuable work done by the bureau.

What the Minister appears to be concerned about are activities which he considers to be of a political nature. If Mr Davies simply attends a weekly legal session at one bureau, I doubt whether he is very well up in the internal "politics" of the organization. Many of the voluntary workers who spend more time in a bureau (of whom I am one) will know quite well what the Minister is concerned about.

The advice bureau organization is non-political, mainly staffed by voluntary workers, drawn from all shades of political opinion. It is largely financed from taxpayers' and ratepayers' money. It should maintain a position of absolute political neutrality and not involve itself in matters of political controversy. Its proper role is to advise people on their existing rights, not to campaign to change those rights. There are people in the organization who would like to turn it into another left-wing pressure group. The Minister is presumably trying to see that this does not happen, and I, for one, have no quarrel with that.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MILLSON,
The Highway,
Sutton, Surrey.

Lawful demonstrations

From Mr Evelyn King
Sir, If the words of the Home Secretary, spoken before Parliament rose in the House of Commons were correctly reported (Parliamentary report, April 2), it appeared to say that what is going on at Greenham Common was lawful. Stated thus it is not so.

What should be made clear is that, whilst the act of demonstrating is of course lawful it ceases to be so if exercised by strangers on the floor of the House of Commons, on any lawn, in gateways, or in any circumstances in which trespass, damage to property, and obstruction are involved, and at Greenham these are all involved.

If the illegality were confined to the nuclear fission issue it could be argued that this is a special case and in the context of conscientious objection the law has often, in the past, been stretched.

But this is not so. Unemployment, gay rights, fox hunting, industrial disputes, animal rights, women's lib, racial equality (the list is endless) all seem now to assert not the right to demonstrate readily granted but the right to trespass, to obstruct, to damage and to hurt. These activities injure innocent people chosen at random.

They increase the charge to rates in respect of policing for this country. A single county has already spent huge sums of ratepayers' money in this way. They reduce, at random, the value of homes, often painfully bought with mortgages hanging around people's necks. They, at random, invade privacy.

No demonstrator, however ideal his cause, however strong his conviction, can justify bullying of the innocent on an indiscriminate hit list. The abuse steadily grows. It is for MPs to move Parliament to protect their constituents from injustice.

Yours truly,
EVELYN KING,
Embley Manor,
N. Rousey,
Hamshire,
April 11.

Nuclear balance

From Mr Joe Gomme
Sir, In your leader of March 31, discussing President Reagan's new proposals for the Geneva missile talks, you repeat the "absolute American requirement" that the British and French nuclear weapons be excluded from the negotiations.

Surely it is difficult for the Soviet Union to accept that the United States does not negotiate for Nato as a whole, since there is no accommodation of the anomalous position of Britain and France with respect to the two alliances.

Perhaps we might consider the problems for Nato representatives inherent in any decision by, for example, East Germany or Czechoslovakia to produce nuclear weapons.

Yours sincerely,
JOE GOMME,
Barleyhall Hall,
Church Lawton,
Stoke-on-Trent,
Staffordshire,
March 31.

Christians and Jews

From Archdeacon Derek Hayward
Sir, The one fact which Christians seem unable to come to terms with is that an unrepentant Jesus would not have been their and mankind's redeemer. Failure to accept this may be partly due to the long tradition of preaching that "Our (your) sins sent Jesus to the Cross, and we crucify him afresh each time we sin", by which the preacher hopes to induce repentance by making his hearers hate their sinful selves.

Leaving aside the fact that Christian preachers ought to know better than to use hate as a weapon against anyone, the effect of this is actually to transfer the hatred to the people who obviously did send Jesus to the Cross. If I ought to hate myself for crucifying Jesus, "my sins — a connection which is not all that easy to see — how much more I ought to hate the people who really were responsible. In fact the person who is truly crucified by sin is the sinner himself, and only in so far as it is true to speak of "Christ in me" does it crucify him.

As H. W. Austones has shown in his recent book, *The Silence of Waiting*, those who were responsible for the death of Jesus from Judas onwards acted in accordance with what Jesus wanted and expected and had they not done so the key to the human condition would not have been revealed to a suffering humanity. For the unique insight which Christianity has to offer is that the forces which seem to break us down — and what could break a man down more than being crucified? — can in fact have precisely the opposite effect.

This is hardly the place to enlarge on how that can happen, except to say that it is not in human power to bring about and that the whole apparatus of Christian religious

Visits to other foreign fields

From Mr Mervyn Rees, MP for Leeds South (Labour)
Sir, Your editorial, "The geography of grief" (April 14), on the matter raised by Lena Jeger in the House of Lords, concerns the need for those widowed by war to be helped to visit the graves of their loved ones, put the issue in perspective in its concluding words. "If at all possible the bereaved should be able to visit those corners (of a foreign field) however great the lapse of time since their loss. They have a claim on our compassion, our gratitude and our purse."

I have written to the Prime Minister twice on the matter and on January 18, 1983, she wrote to me expressing the view "that the numbers would be very large, and it would be far too difficult and expensive to organise."

I realise the problems, but why not introduce a phased scheme beginning with those widowed in 1914? As the Prime Minister reminded me, there was a scheme for relatives to visit European war cemeteries in the late forties and early fifties.

If it could be done then, and not all entitled availed themselves of it; if the Falklands visit could be organised, then the Government can act now.

There is a sense of injustice which has been stimulated by the recent Falklands visit which the Government must remove.

Yours sincerely,
MERVYN REES,
House of Commons,
April 14.

inviting visits by war widows to war cemeteries.

There are now only 55,000 widows still living whose husbands were killed in the Second World War. Those from the First World War are so elderly that it is doubtful whether any could undertake such journeys.

Out of the 55,000 war widows left many thousands do not know where their husbands are buried because they lie in unidentified graves. There are many thousands of men who were lost in the Far East where that applies, as in the case of my own husband. Thousands more were lost at sea and many more thousands of airmen lost without trace as is clearly shown on the Runnymede Memorial where the names of 20,000 aircrew are commemorated. That reduces the given figure dramatically and out of those left some will already have visited their husbands' graves, usually with financial help from their families, and there will be others who have no wish to make such a pilgrimage.

It is very misleading and unfair for anyone to give the impression that 65,000 war widows would all be rushing to see war cemeteries if free travel were to be provided, and it is no doubt intended to damp down public sympathy by implying that the number involved is far too great to be considered. The truth is that the real figure is probably a very modest one.

Yours faithfully,
IRIS STRANGE,
Hon President/Secretary,
British War Widows and Associates,
40 Lime Avenue,
High Wycombe,
Buckinghamshire,
April 14.

Aid to Third World

From Mr George C. Abbott
Sir, Professors Peter Bauer and Basil Yamey claim (feature, April 11) that aid cannot significantly promote development, relieve poverty in the Third World, promote world peace or make friends for the West, relieve unemployment at home; nor can it resolve the so-called international financial crisis.

Isn't this asking an awful lot of aid? In 1981, total resource flows from the OECD countries as a group averaged 1.2 per cent of their combined GNP. To have achieved or at least made significant inroads into any of these major world problems would have been remarkably cheap at that price.

However, the real weakness of their article is they present a blanket condemnation of aid without actually specifying what type of resource flows they are talking about. Consequently, private capital flows which account for more than half the total resource flows to the developing countries are treated as though they are official development assistance, generally taken as the "true" aid element of any aid programme. In fact, there is a

singular lack of statistical data or hard facts to support any of the claims which they make.

Some of their claims are really quite extraordinary. They claim, for instance, that "a poor South is no military threat to the West". Why, then, did the US get involved in Vietnam? Why did President Kennedy embark on his grandiose scheme of an Alliance for Progress and why has President Reagan launched his Caribbean Basin Initiative?

Again, they claim that "the flow of aid has not conduced to harmony within the Third World". No one has ever argued that it could or even that it should. This is a completely new and specious argument.

Similarly, they accuse aid of "being the source of North/South conflict". Surely, the onus is on them to produce some hard evidence to support such a claim. It is not enough to assert, one must be able to prove.

Yours faithfully,
G. C. ABBOTT, Chairman,
Centre for Development Studies,
University of Glasgow,
Adam Smith Building,
Glasgow,
April 12.

Filling the school void

From Mr Alan Haselhurst, MP for Saffron Walden (Conservative)
Sir, Your reform plan for education (leading article, April 12) would bring the Manpower Services Commission and practical skills training into the heart of the schools. This is wise advice, but the question is whether it goes far enough. The "school void" may never be properly filled whilst education and training are kept so far apart.

It is not only in schools or the efforts of teachers to observe that a significant proportion of pupils depart from the formal education system without adequate preparation for economic life. For a disturbingly high number it has been early departure by means of truancy. This is a serious commentary on the relevance of what schools can offer to many of their clients. It is all the more depressing when young people at a later time are heard to bemoan their missed opportunities. The present system provides too few second chances.

If there is to be a better marriage between training and education, I believe it may be altogether too restrictive to suggest that this can occur only within the school. The legislative framework might be broadened to allow, where appropriate, a pupil-trainee's development to be treated as a managed whole between the ages of 13 and 19.

Free passage could be arranged between the classroom, the college, the training workshop, the work experience scheme and the community service opportunity. The formula would vary according to the needs of a particular person and supervision would remain with the teacher, but a teacher with an enhanced tutorial responsibility for which special training would be required.

By taking a pupil who is plainly not benefiting from the classroom and placing him in an alternative environment, there may be a better chance of uncovering talent and

building up the motivation to qualify for some measure of achievement. A certain kind of young person may find outside the school the spur to return to it in pursuit of his own newly found ambition.

Surely this is an area to be explored and the Conservative Party would demonstrate its commitment to good education for all if its election manifesto expressed that intention.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN HASELHURST,
House of Commons,
April 13.

From Mr Peter Snape
Sir, Many teachers will agree with much of what you say in your leader, "Filling the school void", of April 12, especially where you rightly stress the importance of the distinguished teacher, but there are a number of astonishing naiveties in your article.

The Nissen hut method doesn't work any more, especially with technical subjects, languages, science, and resource-based learning generally. Grammar schools did not fade away because of Mr Croxland, but because ordinary people in a democratic society want for their children what the best people want for theirs. Your proposal for streaming by aptitude will probably founder on the same rock.

As for the Manpower Services Commission, Mr Holland's job-specific syllabuses with their outright exclusion of the humanities, arts, literature and religion are no basis for general education, which is still the proper business of schools.

Most important, most teachers I know are both elitist and achievement-oriented; their own careers have made them so.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SNAPE, Headmaster,
King Edward VI School,
Totnes,
South Devon,
April 13.

Burning issue for birds in wild

From the Director of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Sir, As spring unfolds, nesting birds in the uplands will be threatened with fire and destruction. Every year, often for otherwise sound land management reasons, moorland is burned well into the nesting season, despite legal sanctions designed to stop this suffering. A RSPB survey in Wales found 2,341 burning places after March 31 in a year when only 29 licences were issued to permit burning beyond that date. It seems that existing regulations are widely flouted.

Sadly, an opportunity for a cool look at the issue has been avoided by the Ministry of Agriculture. Following sketchy consultations with interested parties, the minister has tabled new draft regulations in Parliament, soon to become law. It appears that the RSPB that the Government intends both to relax current restrictions and to perpetuate the unsatisfactory licensing procedures.

In the past two years there has been only one prosecution in Wales for breach of existing regulations. This exemplifies the need for enforceable sanctions to protect not only the breeding birds but pasture and woodlands from over-intense or poorly managed summer burning.

The legitimate interests of all concerned with management and conservation of English and Welsh uplands could have been accommodated by creating an expert working party on the subject. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland has followed such a course, but this equitable solution has eluded the men at the ministry.

Yours faithfully,
IAN PREST, Director,
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,
The Lodge,
Sandy,
Bedfordshire.

Seville thieves

From Mr Peter Webb
Sir, A note of warning should be sounded for Britons planning to visit Seville this summer. The place is infested with thieves who prey on foreign tourists.

A few days ago two friends of mine were robbed outside their hotel by motorcycle thieves who snatched the wife's handbag containing her British passport, all their money and travellers' cheques as well as other valuables. My friend's wife was dragged along the ground for about 20 yards when she tried to cling on to her handbag. As a result, my friend had to abandon a planned six-week European vacation and fly back to Britain.

At the British Consulate the next day we met a British couple who had been robbed as they drove in a rented car from Seville airport to the centre of town. The thieves threw bricks through the car window while it was stationary at a traffic light and snatched the wife's handbag containing all their money and her passport.

Consulate officials said there had been three reported robberies that morning, and that attacks on tourists had become a commonplace event which the police seemed powerless to stop.

Back at our hotel, we encountered an elderly British woman whose daughter had suffered a broken arm and leg when motorcycle thieves attempted to snatch her handbag. And when I went to examine my car, parked a few yards from the hotel in the cathedral square, I found that the radio had been stolen.

As I left Seville, with the intention of never returning, I noted that the streets were full of policemen. Alas, they were not there to catch the thieves or protect the tourists but to control traffic for a visit by the King of Sweden.

Sincerely,
PETER WEBB,
Casa dos Arcos,
Ferreiras-Almanal,
Algarve, Portugal.

Post-coital pill

From Dr C. B. Goodhart
Sir, Whether or not anyone is still bothered to find out if the soul "enters" a human egg at fertilization, or at any other precise moment in time, as Professor Glanville Williams suggests (April 13), one thing is sure and this is that a biologically new human organism does come into being at fertilization. Unfertilized eggs and spermatozoa are indeed, both human and alive, but they are different in kind from an egg after it has been fertilized, which right from the start has acquired the full potentiality to grow into an adult man or woman, and will do so unless it dies or is destroyed. And none the less so for the fact that occasionally it may split into two genetically identical twins.

It may be for politicians and lawyers to argue about what stage in its later development, if at all, it would be convenient to allow any particular human "being" full rights to its life, but if we are looking objectively for the moment when the new human organism comes biologically into being, then that is at fertilization, and neither before nor after that time.

Yours etc,
C. B. GOODHART,
Gonville & Caius College,
Cambridge,
April 13.

Pound-wise

From Mrs I. O'Mahoney
Sir, For how many minutes do I have to work to pay the Treasury official who calculates for how many minutes I have to work to pay for my milk?

Yours faithfully,
INGRID O'MAHONEY,
20 The Dale,
Wivenhoe,
Essex,
April 13.

THE ARTS

Radio

Morning glories

"What will happen to radio when breakfast television comes along?"

But obviously they exist in some numbers, these households where the matriarch can still an eye and take in Frank Bower with the other.

That this has happened may have something to do with what I claim to be the natural gross unsuitability of television to the early mornings.

Did I say buoyancy? As followers of Feedback (Radio 4, Sundays and Tuesdays) will be well aware, Mr Holland is at present receiving a good deal of black from an apparent array of listeners offended at his introduction of the Dankworth signature tune and associated

"strings", and on this evidence you would conclude that Today is in deep trouble. In fact the offending material occupies perhaps two minutes out of the daily 150 and the remainder is as good as it has ever been.

If Today is in good form, this is the more marked because, if my memory serves me, two years ago it had become distinctly limp, a routine presentation job by whoever happened to be on that day's duty.

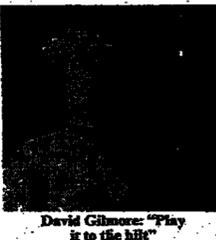
And then, of course, Today has the huge advantage over any of the competition of the great Timpson/Redhead double act. Without wishing to undervalue Peter Hobday, who is sounding more and more at ease as the latest third presenter, I must say that the programme's jollity, style, wit and many other appetizing qualities are at their best on the three mornings each week when his two long-serving colleagues are in tandem.

It is part of the attraction of any good thing that one fears its loss: so we may wonder nervously what will happen to Today if Timpson and/or Redhead should get fed up and withdraw. Such talents are not easily replaceable - as the roll call of past Today presenters bears witness. In the meantime, perhaps we should appreciate theirs and their works and forswear our miserable moaning over such a very little morning music.

David Wade

Interview

Throwing the West End a lifeline from the Provinces



David Gilmore: "Play it to the hilt"

It was David Gilmore who saw the potential of the improbable project of staging *Daisy Pulls It Off*, Denise Desautels' version of an Angela Brazil novel, which opens at the Globe on Monday.

This is Gilmore's second assault on the West End, following *Nuts*, which brought in more critical acclaim than money but did at least signal to the London managements that the Nuffield was alive and capable. It was the national critical response to the original Southampton production of *Daisy* that brought down the impresarios, and it was Andrew Lloyd Webber who was quickest to sign it up.

"His was the one management to say: 'We'll take this show as it is'. So often the provincial company, which takes the risks initially by doing the show, loses when it comes to London. Not because they're not good enough but because people think they can make a more attractive package for London. Fortunately the evidence seems to be that the situation is changing. *Another Country* and the Dario Fo plays give the lie to the idea that you must have a name to have a successful West End show."

Indeed, as Gilmore points out, the provincial theatre seems to be in the process of reviving the West End stage off its own bat. A few doors away from *Daisy* there are *Another Country* from Greenwich and productions from Liverpool Playhouse and the Palace Theatre, Watford. His own theatre, which has evolved in his three years at Southampton,

The Nuffield is a somewhat hybrid theatre financed by the university, the city, the county and the regional arts association. That variety of paymasters and its position on a university campus means that he has had to work at a highly varied repertoire.

Gilmore started in theatre as a result of General Studies - the subject with which schools attempt to create renaissance men. He was all set to study psychology until a master suggested he acquire experience of something entirely different. He took some casual labour at the rep in Cheltenham, and never looked back. For 10 years he acted in various reps until it dawned on him that something was not quite right.

"What I discovered was that I was not getting the buzz out of actually going on the stage every night. I realized that when I saw actors who were really enjoying the greatest thing in their lives was to go out on the stage in front of 500 or a thousand people. I didn't get that. I actually enjoyed the rehearsals best." So he moved into directing and, via the Theatre Royal, Lincoln, and the Watermill, Newbury, to the Nuffield. And that, for the time being, seems to be where he stays.

"If I ever felt I was repeating myself, or some obstacles or hassles were getting in the way of the excitement, then it would be time to look around, but at the moment I'm very happy. What I want to do is to keep finding good new, exciting plays - I don't know whether that would lead me into subsidized companies or the commercial world. I like the demands of the commercial theatre."

Those demands now include West End opening nerves on Monday. Though well received at the Nuffield, it is clear that *Daisy* has a slightly puzzling air as far as the critics are concerned.

"The central girl is truthful and honest and tries hard while mixing obstacles all the way along the line. But finally she wins through. That's all you're supposed to feel but the critics tend to need more than that - they're looking for a social tag or a political tag or whatever."

Bryan Appleyard

Christopher Warman writes on the background to *Daisy Pulls It Off* on Page 5 of *Saturday*.

Theatre

Some failures of sensitivity

A Midsummer Night's Dream

One brilliant idea distinguishes Bill Bryden's *Dream*, newly transferred from the Cottesloe's third seating arrangements to the Lyttelton's proscenium stage.

Shock-headed and hollow-eyed, they seem to carry with them ages of knowledge, and suffering too perhaps, which shame the moderns' ephemeral passions.

For the rest, much of the casting (the lovers especially) is very indifferent and, as in many productions, the dialogue's delicate suspension of poetry, fancy and absurdity ruthlessly reveals every failure of sensitivity in the speakers.

The play survives, as it also survived the last Stratford/Barbican production by the RSC, but that is little cause for congratulation.

Anthony Masters

Robert Stephens, who has replaced Paul Scofield as Oberon, fits smoothly into the production as a voluptuous, mischievous grandee, and Susan Fleetwood's gloriously sensuous Titania is as electric a counterpart to him as Beatrice to Benedick.

The red autumnal leaves with which the stage is strewn are her favourite playthings, turning into a shower of rose petals to scatter over the enchanting ass's snout that the props department has made for Bottom (Derek Newark).

The mechanicals, in fact, are anything but rude; bowler-hatted and in Sunday best, they know their place, making the musicians' opening music-hall song (the one that says you can see the Ackney marshes if it wasn't for the asses in between) seem the irrelevance it is, but then productions of this play do often turn into a ragbag of assorted funnies.

Mr Newark does all the usual Pyramus business with his wooden sword; he and the irrepressible Tony Haygarth (who, one snouts by name, presents the Wall) get a fine double act going, but it does not last. It was good of Puck to say that "if you pardon, we will mend", but I could not honestly tell him where to start.

Robert Stephens as Oberon: voluptuous and mischievous



Robert Stephens as Oberon: voluptuous and mischievous

Television

Powerful parable

Ten years ago a friend teaching at a London further education college invited me to eavesdrop on a rehearsal for a student production of that hardy annual *The Insect Play*.

There was nothing mediocre about last night's production of *Guests of the Nation* (BBC 1), Frank O'Connor's story in a searing adaptation by Maurice Leitch, but here Spall's function was exactly the same: he bound things together with a magnetism which, considering the banal predictability of his part, was little short of extraordinary.

Two English soldiers were taken captive in a remote village by Irish freedom fighters (class of 1920, many rungs higher on the evolutionary ladder than the Provos of today). As time passed the captives (notably the earthy and cynical prisoner played by Spall) turned their nervous, careworn captors into old friends, and then the secret message came: first that the Englishmen were hostages, then that, as a reprisal, they must be shot.

There was nothing mysterious about the script: the characterization was straightforward, the dialogue terse. But the power of this 50-minute parable, applicable at all times

to little local wars all over the globe, was such as to leave one stunned, as though, after assisting at an inconceivable atrocity. Any more explicit than it was under Donald McWhinnie's subtle direction, and the spectacle would have been obscene; any longer and the tension would have been unbearable. It may have been a mere short story shot in a studio, but it was drama of a kind which shows up the bulk of the BBC's current dramatic output.

Last week The London Programme (LWT) offered an unpleasant but salutary glimpse through the windows of a VD clinic. This week it went on a light-hearted tour of local politics in the People's Republic of Islington. As a citizen of that republic I can vouch for the accuracy of its reflection of the views of the populace. Islington's Labour rulers blame the "Tory press" for the contempt in which they are now held by their subjects: they are one-third right and, as this intelligent programme showed, two-thirds disastrously wrong.

The root of the trouble, as everybody said, lies in the councillors' ranting, humourless unanimity. Their commendable new housing policies and their imaginative environmental plans are regularly upstaged by idiotic political gestures. Are this lot capable of learning from recent events in Bermondsey? Almost certainly not.

Michael Church

Concerts

Marc Raubenheimer

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Marc Raubenheimer, the young South African pianist who made his London debut in 1978 and has been scooping up prizes from international competitions before and since the event, remains something of a puzzling musician. The dichotomy within his virtuosity showed itself at the South Bank on Thursday in readings of Haydn and Chopin which ranged from the uneven to the aimless, and performances of Dutilleul and Prokofiev that were vivid and compelling in both imagination and execution.

His technique, fluent, wide-ranging and strongly integrated, can be taken as read. The discrepancies in performance seem to be the result of a musical sensibility which is formed first from the very closeness of his relationship to the piano and its acoustic properties; rather than from a studiously nurtured interpretative intelligence which is then realized through the keyboard.

His Haydn C minor sonata (Hob XVI 20), for example, was a compendium of admirably calculated and executed pianistic ideas. They were often beautiful to observe as they passed, one by one, but lacked a

sense of existing out of necessity and as part of a broader purpose.

The Dutilleul sonata, on the other hand, seemed to find its character, even its structural sense, from Mr Raubenheimer's sensitivity to a wide spectrum of tone and texture, brought to life and made lucid through remarkably supple fingers and strong arms. The piquant harmonic flavouring of the second movement's developing material was delicately and confidently drawn out.

Prokofiev's *Sarcophagus*, too, were perfectly suited to Mr Raubenheimer's talents. Their irony, anger and audacity were drummed out with dynamic timing and a telling breadth of tone of voice even at fortissimo.

And so to the Chopin B minor sonata. Despite a compelling slow movement and a powerful finale, it tended to be played as if it consisted primarily of sound (however minutely varied) and fury - with the inevitable result, Mr Raubenheimer's own considerable repertoire of technical means and acoustic perception still needs to be fed into the repertoire of each composer's particular language, in order that his performances be substantiated by adequate interpretative fibre.

Hilary Finch

LSO/Previn

Festival Hall

When Prokofiev first went to America in 1918, he reported tongue-in-cheek that his music was likened to "Mendelssohn with wrong notes". The comment was hardly sympathetic to either composer, particularly since it must have referred to Prokofiev's early, exploratory and acerbic piano works, as far removed from Mendelssohn as you can imagine. But his self-effacement and self-mocking delight in having his supposed relationship to Mendelssohn put to the test by Thursday's programme excerpts from his ballet *Cinderella* coupled with Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto.

In the event, of course, there was much more to contrast than there was to compare, not only in the music itself but also the performances. Previn and the LSO responded with great warmth to Prokofiev's lyrical and magical love music, notably in the dark, impassioned Act 2 waltz for Cinderella herself and in the two concluding items from Act 3, the tentative slow waltz and the final sumptuous *Amorese*.

We had about a quarter of the complete ballet (15 numbers out of 50), but that was sufficient to show Previn's sure judgment of mood, a fine control of Prokofiev's biting rhythms, and some marvellous mixings of orchestral colours.

Prokofiev's score rarely fails to sparkle and scintillate and, though it perhaps lacks the dramatic strength of the slightly earlier *Romeo and Juliet*, Previn showed it to be, even in this rather odd arrangement of numbers, a work of emotional force and wit. And the percussion thracks in the "Midnight" movement, indicating that Cinderella's time is up, were done with tremendous power, and chilling figuration on the strings.

Next to this the Mendelssohn sounded somewhat bloodless. Perhaps the orchestra was inhibited by Yuzenko Horigome's fragile tone, but the accompaniment was graced with little variety of dynamics and few expressive nuances.

Miss Horigome plays with poise and elegance, and in the slow movement managed to inject into her double octave sense of tension and tonal depth; but in the finale, taken perhaps at a speed slightly too quick for comfort, she tended to snatch at phrases and rob the music of its broad sweep.

Geoffrey Norris

Dance

Boldness rewarded

The Winter Play

Hippodrome, Birmingham

The king must die: we know that, so there is no surprise in the ending of Jonathan Burrows' new work for Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, yet he retains tension and interest. This means he uses are so diverse that the unity of the piece is remarkable; so is the excitement he distils from a mixture of old myth, the tradition of the mummery plays, English folk and popular dances and straight ballet.

The *Winter Play* is mainly for male dancers; the women are little more than bait and decoration, and the scenes with them fall flat compared with what happens before and after. Burrows has been bold but justified in casting David Yow, in his first professional season, as the new leader. His challenge to Carl Myers, the old leader, begins with highly competitive solos, goes on to an unusually realistic dance of fight, and reaches the ritual killing as climax of a masked sword dance.

Yow survives with enough stamina to celebrate his victory in properly cheerful style before showing that he can match Myers' earlier alarm and desperate defence when Nicholas Ringham in turn establishes himself as the confident next challenger.

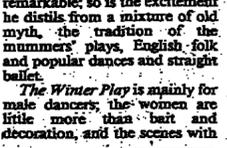
An extraordinary performance provides an unexpected interlude. After the old king's death, David Bantley emerges climbing a ladder from the orchestra pit. Dressed in black, with high hat and a big black bag, he is perhaps a physician unfringed for ineffectuality. His tap dance around and over the corpse seems to confirm a comic intent, but not for nothing does he somewhat resemble a voodoo god: horror joins force when he transfers the old leader's spirit to his successor.

It is gratifying to see Burrows, whose inventiveness and originality were never in doubt, find a strong and theatrical use for his gifts. Rewarding, too, that the Royal Ballet School's folk-dancing classes at last find a real purpose on stage. That early grounding must help explain the quiet authority of all the men's performances.

Burrows and his co-producer Ronald Smedley are strongly supported by the score, partly original, partly arranged from folk and popular melodies, by Dudley Simpson. His early experience as a ballet conductor before becoming a successful television composer (*Dr Who* among other credits) serves him in good stead.

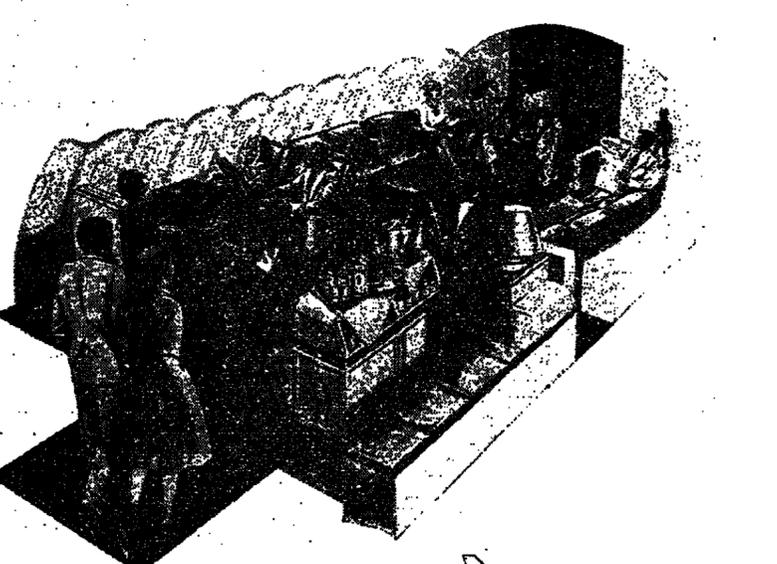
Ian Spurling's clothes for the men ingeniously combine tradition and present times; the women's are merely odd, but Spurling's curtains depicting a tree god have a sly menace.

John Percival



David Bantley as the doctor: extraordinary

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MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Bid talk lifts Rugby

What a week it has been for Rugby Portland Cement when the shares jumped a further 9p to a new high of 116p yesterday.

On Tuesday the group announced a surge in pretax profits for the full year from £18.6m to £33.5m - and just to underline the performance the EEC confirmed it was clamping down on cheap East European imports of cement.

This has led to renewed speculation that a bid may be on the way with dealers reporting a large put-through of shares done outside the market at around the 119p level.

The Morgan Credit consortium has raised its bid for ACE Trust Robert Holmes a Court's Bell from 133p to 138p following the collapse of Arbutnot.

Elsewhere equities continued their record-breaking run, drawing closer to 700 barrier spurred on by lower interest rates, stable oil prices and the clamour for shares on the rest of the main standing at very near their full value.

Lord Abernethy, is again singing out blue chips and speculative issues. In the event, the FT Index closed 6.6 up at a peak 695.5.

With no sign of another cut in interest rates for the time being, gilt spent a lacklustre day. So with the bulk of the new "tap" still in the hands of the Government, prices drifted with falls of around 1/4 in longs.

Shorts resisted the trend with gains of 1/4, and dealers reporting a certain amount of switching from long to medium reflecting the steep path of the yield curve. On the bid front Mr Michael Ashcroft's Hawley Group, went a wooing for Miss World Group and announced it had picked up a 15 per cent stake in the company - just a day after dealers had begun on the Unlisted Securities Market last night, shares in Miss World.

Jobs complained of short-premium of 82p. But with Mr Eric Morley and his wife holding 51 per cent of the shares a bid would need to be agreed.

Also making its debut on a sizable upgrading of profits by brokers Wood Mackenzie.

In oils Ultramar lost 5p to 587p after news of a big fire at one of its liquefied natural gas plants in Indonesia. A statement said there had been little damage to the other processing train or the two new processing trains under construction.

Akroyd & Smithers, one of the two publicly quoted jobbing firms, was marked 25p higher at 393p on hopes of a bumper year for profits following the market's recent strength.

Much of the group's profit is derived from its heavy exposure to the lucrative gilt market. Shares of RTD rose 10p to 24p on news of a management buyout. Mr Victor Burley and Mr Anthony Parmer, directors of RTD Swan, an RTD subsidiary, have bought 100,000 ordinary shares at 16p and 2 million preference shares at 4p each giving them 20.5 per cent of the company.

Among the leaders Tate & Lyle, added 8p to a new high for the year of 312p following lunch

with a firm of brokers in the City earlier this week. The shares have risen 22p on the week.

ICL put in another strong run with a spurt of 10p to 436p earlier this week on a report in The Times that the company was planning a major restructuring.

Reynolds Diversified, the oil and gas exploration group, has announced a rights issue of 1.125 million shares on the basis of three-for-two at 1 cent to raise \$1.12m (£723,000). The proceeds will be used to pay off a \$350,000 bridging loan, complete the Kitzbuhel purchase and provide further cash for exploration on the Ajman project.

Cutler placed 4.6 million shares at 36p and watched as the price hit 42p in first time dealings. The shares previously held a full quote.

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began, April 11. Dealings end, April 8. Contango Day, April 11. Settlement Day, April 18.

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THE TIMES 100 1982/1983 The World's Top Companies

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div, Yield. Lists various companies like British Airways, British Telecom, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div, Yield. Lists companies under 'SHIPPING' and 'MINES'.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div, Yield. Lists companies under 'LOCAL AUTHORITIES'.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div, Yield. Lists companies under 'BANKS AND DISCOUNTS'.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div, Yield. Lists companies under 'BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES'.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div, Yield. Lists companies under 'COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL'.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div, Yield. Lists companies under 'MEDICINES'.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div, Yield. Lists companies under 'DOLLAR STOCKS'.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div, Yield. Lists companies under 'STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD'.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div, Yield. Lists companies under 'MONEY MARKET RATES'.

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Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES City Office 200 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8EZ Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 695.5, up 6.6 FT Giltts 82.9, down 0.02 FT All Share 439.52, up 3.82 Bargains 27,085 Tring Hall USM Index 172.4, up 1.2 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Average 8,552.16, down 2.05 Hongkong Hang Seng Index 1,067.14, down 0.22 New York Dow Jones Average (midday, 1,108.99, up 1.74

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.5480, up 75pts Index 82.9, up 0.5 DM 3.7775 FrF 11.3150 Yen 367.00 Dollar Index 122.5, down 0.2 DM 2.4385, down 10pts Gold \$436.50, down \$0.50 NEW YORK LATEST Gold \$436.50 Sterling \$1.5470

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Base rate 10% 3 month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2 Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 10 1/4-10 1/2 3 month DM 5 1/4-5 1/2 3 month FrF 11 1/4-11 1/2 ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period March 2 to April 5, 1983 inclusive: 10.974 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

Sovereign Oil 234p, up 65p Thorpe 57p, up 12p Pict Petrol 89p, up 10p Wellfire Syst 8p, up 1p Mettoy 45p, up 7p Ch'rnbo & Hill 47p, up 7p Saxon Oil 155p, down 31p Im. Bus Svcs 228p, down 35p TSL Thermal 53p, down 6p Automotive Pd 27p, down 4p Snia Viscosa 38p, down 4p Stanelco 48p, down 5p

Dreamland court action

Proceedings have been instituted in the Industrial Tribunals Court by Mr John Combes, the former managing director of Dreamland Electrical Appliances. The company is defending the action. Mr Combes has been dismissed from his executive role, but remains on the board. The news comes just a week after Dreamland announced a return to profit in 1982, at £56,000 after a half-time loss of £704,000.

SOOTHERY'S SLIPS: The price of Sothery Paris Bernat shares slid 12p to 508p yesterday as hopes faded that it would find a suitor prepared to bid more than the 502p in cash already being offered by two New York financiers and art collectors.

TRACTOR SALES: New tractor registrations were 18 per cent higher in the first three months of this year than in the corresponding period last year, the Agricultural Engineers Association said yesterday. Sales are now running at an annual rate of more than 28,000 units, a quarter more than two years ago.

FRENCH STAKE: Midland Bank is restructuring its French operations around a new company, Midland Bank SA, in which it will have an 85 per cent stake. Midland Bank SA will then issue FF 200m (£17.7m) convertible loan stock to allow scope for expansion.

RESCUE PLAN: The rescue plan for Wellman has been approved by shareholders who are subscribing for new convertible preference shares.

TOYOTA DROP: Toyota Motor Corporation said its vehicle exports in the year to March 31 fell one per cent to a rounded 1.66 million from 1981.

HOTELS SALE: Six London hotels have been put up for sale by Grand Metropolitan, the hotels, drink and leisure group. They are the Piccadilly Hotel, the St Ermin's Hotel, the Chesterfield Hotel, the Kennedy Hotel, the Clifton Ford Hotel and the Mount Royal.

MASSIVE DEBT: Italy's state owned group IRI (Istituzioni per la Ricostruzione Industriale) last year incurred debts amounting to £16,135m. The servicing of this massive debt takes up 17 per cent of turnover, compared to 3.6 per cent for private firms. Signor Romano Prodi, the chairman, gave these figures when he appeared before parliament's commission for state-owned industry.

Dow up slightly in brisk trading

New York (AP-Dow Jones)—Stocks advanced slowly in active trading yesterday. The Dow Jones industrial average rose four points to above 1169 and gainers were more than seven to five ahead of decliners.

International Business Machines was unchanged at 109 1/2; General Motors was off 1/4 at 64; General Electric fell 1/4 at 108 3/4; American Telephone & Telegraph rose 1/4 at 65 1/2; Merck was unchanged at 82 1/2; and Atlantic Richfield up 1/4 to 44 1/2.

Digital Equipment, at 125 1/4, was up 1/4; Exxon at 33 was unchanged; Minnesota Mining at 79 1/4 was off 1/4; Teledyne at 147 1/2, up 1 1/2; Texas Instruments at 163 1/2 was off 1/4; Motorola at 111 1/4 up 1/4; Lockheed 112 1/2, was down 1/4; American Express at 68 was up 1/4 and International Paper at 51 1/4 was off 1/4.

Mr Monahan Dodd analyst for E. F. Hutton said the market was "still working higher but concern is rising because of the long stretch of advances."

He added: "We've had six days in a row on the upside—the longest such stretch since the bull market began last August. And further the advances started after the market was down for four days in a row—which was the longest downside stretch."

"Volume continues fairly good and there are no divergences left which could mean added life for the up-phase," he said.

Meanwhile, the profits last year of Fortune magazine's top 500 companies fell a record 27.1 per cent from their 1981 levels in the largest earnings dip in the 20-year history of its listing of America's leading industrial firms.

Oil companies continued to dominate the top spots on the list, with Exxon retaining its number one ranking, despite a \$10,000m (£6,493m) fall in sales to below \$100,000m.

UK asked to justify Hyster aid

The Common Market Commission has asked Britain to justify nearly £20m planned investment in the Hyster fork lift truck plant in Scotland.

The Commission is concerned that some of the aid may be in breach of EEC rules on free competition. It has given Britain four weeks to provide details of the plan.

Proceedings began yesterday with a message to Britain demanding information. This effectively blocks all cash injections to the plant in Irvine until the Commission rules on the validity of £10m for vocational training and a further £9,520,000 in the form of a direct investment grant.

A Commission spokesman said the investment spending might be in order, but there was concern at the scale of planned spending on training.

The procedure could take months to complete, but if the Commission does block the investment in Hyster, Britain can take the Commission to court.

Meanwhile, the French Government has been given four weeks to justify its £4m state spending in the Timex plant at Besancon.

Britain has already raised the issue with the Commission because of cuts at the Timex plant in Dundee.

Workers at the Scottish Timex plant are still staging a sit-in in protest at the loss of 1,500 jobs. They claim the production of a revolutionary three-dimensional camera which is to begin at the French plant could equally well be carried out in Dundee.

The Commission wants to know the social and economic situation in the Besancon region before assessing the justification for national aids.

The EEC Commission will press ahead with the next stage of tobacco tax harmonization despite the vigorous and sustained opposition of the European parliament. There were protests from both the Conservative and Labour MEPs yesterday when it was disclosed.

'Punch' publishers step in after family rift

£11m offer for Benn Brothers

A rift between members of the Benn family, which includes Mr Tony Benn, the Labour politician, has opened the way for an £11m takeover bid for Benn Brothers, the family publishing company, by United Newspapers.

The United Newspapers offer of seven shares in United for every ten shares in Benn values the Benn ordinary shares at 149p each, while a cash alternative arranged by merchant bankers Samuel Montagu values each Benn share at 143.5p.

The bid was made possible when United Newspapers, which publishes Punch magazine and a chain of provincial newspapers, acquired a 13 per cent stake in Benn Brothers

Industrial production up 1.1 per cent in February UK leading world out of recession says Treasury minister

By Michael Prest Britain is leading the world out of recession, Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, claimed yesterday, as new figures showed that industrial production in Britain and America is rising while inflation is falling.

Britain's industrial production rose 1.1 per cent in February after gaining 0.3 per cent in January. The latest three-months index of industrial production was 1.5 per cent higher, and the manufacturing index 1 per cent higher, than in the previous three months.

These figures encouraged Mr Brittan to tell a London conference: "Those who repeatedly urge us to lead the world out of recession should realize that we are already doing so."

But over a longer period, the British production figures point to the importance of oil and gas and the problems of the manufacturing sector. The whole index, which reached 103.6 (1975 = 100) in February, was 2 1/2 per cent above a year ago, whereas manufacturing production was unchanged over 12 months.

Oil and gas production by contrast grew by 2 1/2 per cent quarter on quarter and has expanded by 17 per cent over the year. Indeed, manufacturing output actually fell last month, but officials regard the decline as a freak.



Broken down by sector, metal manufacturing rose by 5 per cent between the two most recent three-months period. Food, drink and tobacco gained 3 per cent, chemicals, coal and petroleum products 2 1/2 per cent, and other manufacturing 1 per cent.

Officials point out that the long-term decline of British Manufacturing industry, which began in the early 1970s, is continuing, relative to other

sectors despite the apparent recovery.

The index of per capital gross domestic product in the West Midlands, for instance, fell from 102.8 in 1971 to 90.6 a decade later.

But Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday reiterated the Government's view that devaluation was not a solution. While admitting that encouraging greater exchange rate stability was a desirable and legitimate objective he said: "The crucial precondition is that economic prospects and policies in the world's major economies should come closer together, and that all countries should maintain progress in reducing inflation."

Another cause for caution in the manufacturing sector is the weakness for demand for investment goods.

US output rises for fourth month

US industrial output rose a healthy 1.1 per cent last month, despite a sharp drop in car production, which was offset by important gains in the output of consumer-related industries.

It was the fourth consecutive monthly gain in national output and came after a rise of only 0.3 per cent in this key indicator during February, the US Federal Board said yesterday.

Perhaps more significant, and neither Miss World nor Hawley's brokers, Capel-Cure Myers, were able to divine his intentions.

Mr Ashcroft's appearance as a large minority shareholder caught the new company at an awkward moment—with Mr Morley in Scotland for a beauty contest. But Miss World's finance director, Mr Rhodri Jones, seconded from Belhaven, said Mr Ashcroft had told him it was a "benign investment".

Any issue of shares by Miss World to expand—which is likely because it is now only a one product business—would dilute the Morley's stake and allow Mr Ashcroft to move in.

Administration officials said wholesale prices have not fallen for a full calendar quarter since 1976.

The drop in motor industry output, which has been a key factor in pushing up national production in recent months, had been expected and is not likely to continue in coming months, officials said.

Despite the good news, however, output at the nation's factories, mines and electric utilities was still 1.8 per cent below a year earlier.

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£14m loss at components group

Automotive Products, the West Midlands motor components manufacturer, produced dismal results for 1982 yesterday which were dramatically below City expectations. The group, which makes clutches, brakes, gearboxes and steering equipment, suffered a sharp downturn in orders for spare parts in the second half of the year which helped contribute towards pretax losses of £14.1m against losses of £2.2m in 1981.

Reorganization and redundancy costs of £4.5m were also included in the figures in a bid to wipe the slate clean. The workforce was cut by 1,200 to 8,300 people during the year.

The board passed the dividend after paying 0.5p at the interim stage against last year's total dividends of 3p.

Mr Pears said that although the company is always in close contact with its bankers, there are no problems which the existing management cannot handle: "We feel we have done the nasty work now." He said that success of last year's rationalization is already beginning to show through. The company managed to produce a small pretax profit in the first quarter of this year, continuing efforts to control costs and cut stocks will help reduce borrowings.

Group turnover of £203m for 1982 against £201m the previous year should increase again this year as demand for AP's products increases.

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Hawley grabs stake in Miss World

Mr Michael Ashcroft's Hawley Group has snappd up 14.99 per cent of the Miss World Group, less than 24 hours after the glamour company was brought to the Unlisted Securities Market by Mr Eric Morley and his wife Julia.

But with more than 50 per cent of Miss World's shares in the Morley's hands, Mr Ashcroft cannot bid and win control. He paid between 60p and 130p for the shares when dealings started on Thursday and yesterday morning.

Since his involvement in the Dowable consortium's bid for Cope Allman International, Mr Ashcroft has been keeping an uncharacteristically low profile,

United States: seize the opportunities with GT

The major recovery in the US market, which began last August, signals a strong upturn in the US economy. The upturn, although continuous, is proving patchy, with some industries doing far better than others. Thus concentration on growing, well-managed companies, the key point of GT's investment strategy, could be expected to give a better result than the market averages. In the 12 months to 1st April, 1983 the Standard & Poors index rose by 34.4% or, expressed in sterling by 63.0%. In the same

period GT US and General went up by 124.4% and thereby out-performed not just other Unit Trusts investing in the US, but all other UK Authorised Unit Trusts.

As the recovery is being powered primarily by a fall in inflation, GT believes that this upturn will prove exceptionally long-lived and that Wall Street is still in a major uptrend. GT's concentration on high quality, growth companies promises to continue yielding superior returns.

Pleasurama argues for casinos merger

Pleasurama has begun to subject the Office of Fair Trading to a barrage of arguments on why its planned merger with rival casino and leisure group Trident Television should not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation.

The lobby comes after mounting speculation in the stock market that the addition of Pleasurama's 13 provincial casinos and one London casino to Trident's four casinos in the capital, virtually guarantees a reference. This fear is reflected in Trident's share price, which at 93p is now 22p adrift of the value of Pleasurama's shares and cash bid.

Pleasurama has pointed out, however, that even after merging, its claim on the total number of London casino players will still be less than 17 per cent, according to the latest Gaming Board figures.

Even if it controlled the two London casinos managed by Grand Metropolitan in which it has a 25 per cent interest, its share of London players would be below 25 per cent.

More than anything, it is the Grand Met connexion which has sparked talk of a reference. Grand Met is Britain's largest casino operator and already has a sizable shareholding in Pleasurama.

Pleasurama has also argued that the Gaming Act already precludes competition among individual casinos. This makes the structure of casino ownership irrelevant, the company says.

Oil prices are firming, Shell chief says

The first signs of a shortage of oil stocks have appeared in parts of Europe and the United States, suggesting that oil demand and prices may finally be firming up, Sir Peter Baxendale, chairman of Shell, said yesterday.

What happened to oil stocks was critical to the success or failure of Opec's attempts to hold falling oil prices around its new lower market price of \$29 a barrel, he told an energy conference.

There had been a tremendous amount of destocking in the early months of this year, reflecting the expectation of oil companies and consumers that prices were going to fall. But now, Sir Peter said, "perceptions seem to be changing all round the world".

Destocking had come to an end eventually, and when it did it would add as much as 4 million barrels a day to world demand, most of it for oil from Opec. In the last few days the first minor stock gaps had appeared in Europe, and shortages of gasoline stocks had also developed in the United States.

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Advertisement for GT US & General Fund. Includes a line graph showing a 124.4% increase from April 1982 to April 1983. Text describes the fund's performance and investment strategy, highlighting its focus on high-quality growth companies in the US market. Includes contact information for GT Unit Managers and a form for investors to request more information.

City Comment Predictable move in UDS fight

Hill Samuel has resigned as advisers to UDS and been replaced by Charterhouse Japhet. This is hardly surprising. Hill Samuel's advice has been largely ignored by the board majority because it prefers the comforting assurances about the future of the business from Mr Gerald Ronson's Bassishaw to the hard commercial appeal of Hanson Trust's cash or shares offer.

Charterhouse Japhet, starting with a clean slate, says the board is right to have exercised its judgment and recommend the lower offer and looks ready to back them to the hilt.

But Sir Robert Clark, who is both chairman of Hill Samuel and of UDS, will not be resigning from the board of the embattled stores group, which will now get Hill Samuel's £750,000 bill for the defence of UDS.

Against that Hill Samuel weighs the efforts of a 10 man team which, it insists, pushed the bid price up.

Maybe. But with the Hill Samuel chairman heading UDS there was a tendency to ride roughshod over the old board members. This led to the deal to sell a large chunk of the business to the Burton Group to stop Bassishaw—a deal which has clouded the whole complex issue.

Not that Bassishaw's advisers, NM Rothschild and Barclays Merchant Bank, have done much better. Bassishaw declared its 130p offer its final bid so it could go and buy in the market. Someone misjudged Hanson's strength of purpose and did not expect it to offer 133 1/2p in cash.

Perhaps it is no coincidence that Hanson is winning the game, just its advisers, Schroder Wagg, have kept very quiet and maintained a very low profile.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK edited by Sally White

Kwik Save profits expand to £12.3m

Kwik Save Discount Group Half-year to 25-2-83 Pretax profit £12.3m (£10.7m) Stated earnings 7.35p (7.35p) Turnover £267.1m (£235.2m) Net interim dividend 2.3p (2p) Share price 296p+10p Yield 2.8%

Kwik Save Discount Group, the cut price supermarket chain, has languished in stock market terms at the bottom of an underperforming sector. Yet the pretax profit at the interim stage is up from £10.7m to £12.3m and the full-year results are expected to be about £26.5m, against £23.6m.

share. And it has the advantage of fighting against the independents rather than the big High Street groups.

Other improvements in profit came from the concessionaire rentals, including Coleman Meat, which rose from £2.18m to £2.56m.

Kwik Save finished last year with a net cash surplus of more than £15m, which came partly from its £12m rights issue last January. At the interim stage, net interest received was up from £736,000 to £784,000.

The group has been spending heavily on new stores, and is opening a new warehouse in the North, to help generate increased sales.

The market believes that a further rise in the dividend will be possible at the final. Thus the prospective price earnings multiple of 17 times, which is only slightly above the market, and way behind those for other

food retailing groups, is looking very undervalued.

Gilts

Gilts are showing signs of consolidation. While there was a very strong start to the week on hopes of an interest rate cut as sterling recovered, the new medium term has now bogged the market down.

Until the rest of the stock is moved (and there was some switching into it yesterday), the market looks set to mark time and there will be little progress for a couple of weeks.

No fresh cut in interest rates is expected until United States rates start to drop. That leaves little good news to come in, and the market will probably be waiting for institutional cash flows to build up again. While corporate dividend payouts are at a high level in April, and takeovers should give a strong

boost to the institutions' net cash position, gilt coupons are at only reasonable levels. There are several large rights issues, predominantly Standard Chartered's £101m issue.

The yield curve is quite steeply downwards, and this has brought the switching into the medium dates. On the week, shorts are up a half to a quarter of a point, mediums are unchanged and longs are up a point. Index-linked stocks gain about an eighth.

Leyland Paint and Wallpaper

Leyland Paint and Wallpaper Year to 31.12.82 Pretax loss £2.98m (£22.00m profit) Stated loss 20p (2.2p earnings) Turnover £39.5m (£39.6m) Net final dividend nil (1.5p) Share price 20p down 2 1/2p

Leyland Paint and Wallpaper has felt the cold wind of diminishing consumer expenditure, especially in the North, and competitive prices for paint. Borrowings are up, and while it has been cutting costs and trying to sell off some of its shops, it went deeper into the red in the second half.

There should be some improvements this year, although the market is not expecting a return to dividend. Some of the shops may be sold, realizing about £2m, of which £1m will probably be used to reduce the borrowing. The benefits of past cuts will begin to be seen, although there will be further spending on redundancy.

Sales volumes and margins were both improving by the end of the second half. This trend has continued in 1983, even though there was a slow start, the company says. Exports for both paint and

wallpaper are particularly buoyant. Losses in 1982 reduced revenue reserves, but a valuation shows that net asset value per share is now about 51p. As that is more than double the share price, it may start some rumours in these present speculative markets.

There are hopes that the company could be back at break-even by the half-year and into profits at about £250,000 by the fall year.

Glaxo's share price motors on ahead of three drug launches in the United States, and forecasts of a jump in profits from £133m to £200m this year and from £260m next year. Having broken through £9 a share, the next target would be £10, at which level brokers Fielding, Newton-Smith suggest that holdings be lightened.

Turkish banks face stricter controls

Istanbul (Reuter) - Turkey's banking and financial system, after months of chaos, is set for a facelift which according to Mr Adnan Baser, Kafoglu, the finance minister, will lead to sounder financial institutions under stricter control.

Earlier this month the ruling military leaders assented to a law to change by decree most legislation covering banks and the capital markets.

Details have yet to emerge, but Mr Kafoglu wants to restructure the banks and set up some kind of formal capital market ending a period of low profits, shut-downs and confusion in the financial sector.

Present difficulties began when controls were lifted on interest rates after a tough monetarist policy was introduced to curb inflation. The banks, which up to then were used to "cheap money" suddenly found themselves plunged into fierce competition with each other.

Rates for depositors soared to more than 50 per cent a year from near 15 per cent.

After a special meeting with representatives of all 45 domestic and foreign banks in Turkey, Mr Kafoglu set up a joint working committee to study changes he says have already been drafted. The committee will report now to another full Friday and the long process is expected to follow shortly.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including LONDON METAL EXCHANGE, WWOOL, SOYABEAN MEAL, L.M.S. TURBINE, LONDON COCOA, RUBBER, LONDON GOLD, GRAIN, MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION, COFFEE, COCOA, SUGAR, and LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street stock prices for various companies including AMF Inc, Allied Chem, Alcoa, and others.

M&G OFFERS UNIT TRUSTS. Advertisement for M&G unit trusts, including details on investment options, risks, and contact information.

FROM £1,000. Advertisement for M&G investment services, including details on investment plans and contact information.

M&G CAPITAL BUILDER. Advertisement for M&G Capital Builder, including details on tax relief, investment plans, and contact information.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF. Short news items regarding Scottish Television, S. Jerome and Sons, Arrow Chemicals, and F. Miller.

Base Lending Rates. Table showing current base lending rates for various banks and financial institutions.

GT European Fund. Advertisement for GT European Fund, featuring a line graph showing performance from 1982 to 1983, and details on investment opportunities in Europe.

مركزاً من راصل

Mortgage schemes

FAMILY MONEY edited by Adrienne Gleeson

Holiday cash

Policy rejigged

National Employers' Mutual has rejigged its personal accident policy, cutting some rates and providing a new 'easy to read' guide...

Penny gamble

Arbutnot Securities has launched a new fund to invest in 'penny stocks' - companies whose share prices are very low...

performance. The fund is the first of its kind, although various recovery funds have made similar investments in the past...

Extra interest

Bristol and West has launched an Extra Interest Account paying 1 per cent above the ordinary share rate on minimum investments of £1,000...

Mortgage package

Northern Rock, the Odd Fellows, and Manchester Unity Life Insurance have put together a mortgage package...

Initial payments (£126.46 a month, for a man of 30 borrowing £17,000 over 25 years) are split between interest to the building society, premiums on a mortgage protection policy through Odd Fellows, and premiums on a 10-year endowment with Manchester Unity...

Mortgage best buy

As well as reports on slimming products, shampoos and car servicing, this month's Which? magazine advises on the type of mortgage you should have under the new tax relief arrangements...



Adrian Collins: join effort

Beat the taxman

Lancashire & Yorkshire Assurance and Garmore's Adrian Collins have joined to produce a new tax-efficient savings scheme, to be known as the Balanced Portfolio...

Fund (narrow range trustee investments)

Since Lancashire & Yorkshire is a friendly society, the contributions (minimum of £10.50 a month; maximum of £20 a month) are not liable for tax, and can be cashed in at the end of the 10 years' saving period free of any tax liability.

Spice of Life

Premium Life is adding two new unit-linked funds to its existing range: Premium Life Japan, and Premium Life Gilt. Premium Life uses a variety of outside specialists to manage its unit-linked funds...

Hotel policy

The AA Insurance Services has introduced a special policy for hotels, pubs and guesthouses. The policy is aimed at establishments with fewer than 25 beds and covers them against accidental loss or damage of contents; loss of profits through unforeseen disruptions - such as having

to close the hotel because of contagious disease (but not a rail strike); glass breakage (including sanitary fittings); compensation to a staff member for assault; and third party legal liabilities. For a 20-bed hotel with £100,000 worth of buildings insurance and £50,000 worth of contents cover, the premium would be £425. The policy also offers a variety of extra options, including cover against spillage of frozen food at £5 per £100 insured.

Trusts launch

GRE Unit Trust Managers is to launch four new unit trusts over the next few months. The first, which was launched yesterday, is the GRE Pacific Trust, providing long term capital growth through investment in Japan, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia and Hongkong. The second, in early May, will be GRE Smaller Companies. With both of these funds, income will be reinvested at a two per cent discount on the then offer price. GRE Property Share will be launched at the end of May and GRE Equity in mid-June. The initial offer price for each trust will be 100p. For seven days, with special introductory discounts of two per cent for all applications resulting. The minimum application will be for 250 units.

Security Incentive plan to cut crime

Insurance companies should stop waiting about the increase in household theft (up by 27 per cent since 1981), and do something to encourage householders to protect themselves. So says Mr Victor Green, publisher of Security Surveyor, and organizer of the Home Security Exhibition that is running at Olympia this weekend. Mr Green believes that insurance companies should be prepared to offer a discount on their home contents premiums to householders who can prove that they have spent money on theft prevention. That way, he says, householders would save on their premiums. Insurance companies would save on their claims, and the police would save on the time that they waste on what is, in many cases, relatively unsophisticated crime. Royal Insurance, one of the biggest in the area of home contents, says that this is an old chestnut. 'We encourage and in some cases require people to protect their homes to a reasonable level before we will give them cover at standard rates', a spokesman says. In London and other metropolitan areas, for instance, Royal requires the installation of security locks on all doors and accessible windows, costing between £100 and £150 for an average house. 'It's no use requiring evidence of expenditure,' Royal says. 'Unless the right equipment is installed, in the right way, it will probably be worse than useless.' If you want some ideas on beating the burglars, the Home Security Exhibition ends tomorrow (admission £1, or 50p for children and pensioners).

Investment

Keeping returns safe as interest rates slip

The fall in interest rates is all very well for the people who want to borrow money - although they should investigate the alternatives before they go to the bank. But what about the people who need income from their investments? For them declining interest rates mean shrinking income, unless they tied up their money when rates were higher. And even then, unless they are invested in undated gilts, the money will one day, have to be reinvested at a lower rate.

You can get over 11 per cent on a term deposit with Finance for Industry (FFI), but there are even better deals among the income bonds. Crown Life, for instance, is offering 8.5 per cent net (equivalent of 12.14 per cent at a basic rate taxpayer), on a four-year guaranteed income bond (minimum investment £1,000). If it is important to you to be able to have access to your money, then the money funds are the best answer, provided you have the minimum re-

quired. Interest rates on these funds vary according to what is happening in the money markets, and rates quoted are not necessarily strictly comparable. The 10.65 per cent quoted on the Save & Prosper fund, for example, assumes that you leave your money in for a year. With most of these funds you have to give seven days' notice of withdrawal, but there is a cheque book facility with a high minimum withdrawal attached to both the Save & Prosper and the Tyndall funds.

INCOME FROM YOUR INVESTMENTS

Table with columns: Fixed capital, Variable capital, Yield (%), Minimum investment, Withdrawal notice, Price. Includes rows for Banks, Building societies, National Savings, Gilts, and FFI stock.

What are the chances of borrowing money at less than market rates, no questions asked and repayment entirely at your own discretion? Better than you might think. Many people have access to just such loans, without realizing it.

Most insurance companies are prepared to lend money against the security of their conventional life policies, although there is very little publicity about the service. Unfortunately, the popular unit-linked contracts rarely provide this facility.

How much a company will lend depends on the surrender value of the policy, and whether it is an endowment or whole life policy, with profits or not, and how long it has been in existence.

Most life policies build up a surrender value only slowly. Indeed, many companies do not even quote a surrender figure until you have paid at least two years' premiums. After that, the amount of money you get back depends on the type of policy you have. With a whole life contract, for instance, it will

Cheap loans from life policies

take several years to build up a worthwhile value.

In the case of with profits endowment policies, the build-up is quicker. For example, with a 15-year contract, the surrender value is likely to match the money you have paid in after five years. With a 25-year policy, it will be about 10 years before you reach this position.

The proportion of the surrender value that can be borrowed varies from company to company. Most offices, though, are prepared to lend 90 per cent on most contracts, although possibly less for a whole life or a non-profit contract.

The costs and paperwork do not make very small loans worthwhile, so most offices fix a minimum sum they are pre-

Insurance

pared to lend. However, there are companies such as Crusader, Eagle Star and Standard Life which have no minimum, while Scottish Life will consider a loan as small as £5. For most offices the minimum is between £50 and £100.

Rates of interest charged on policy loans are about 12-13 per cent. Some policyholders will be luckier. American Life, for instance, charges 10 per cent, while the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, which limits its contracts to nurses, charges 12 per cent at present, or 10 per cent if it is a non-profit contract. Clerical, Medical asks for 11.5 per cent against its non-profit policies.

However, a great attraction of a policy loan is that it does not have to be repaid. It can remain outstanding until the policy matures, when it will be offset against the maturity or claim value. Another plus point is that, as long as you keep on paying your premiums, you can always go back to the insurance company to borrow more, as the surrender value of your policy grows.

This is much cheaper than borrowing on a bank overdraft, which can cost you up to 15 per cent or on your credit card, where on an annualized basis the interest rate is well over 20 per cent.

Most insurance companies lend on a variable interest rate, which changes in line with market conditions. However, their rates tend to be less sensitive to the market than those of the banks, and slower to change.

You will not be able to claim tax relief on the loan, unless it is being used for a qualifying purpose, such as extending your home.

Mike Hockings

Can you afford to let another ten days pass before you get into Gilts?

Ten days ago, The Financial Times reported on the biggest surge in the Gilt Market since the beginning of this year. Since then there have been further advances.

Which proves that, for those who want to keep their income up and their capital protected, Gilts are once again looking good.

Why do Gilts continue to glitter?

Gilt Edged Securities (commonly known as Gilts) are stocks issued - and guaranteed - by the Government in exchange for the cash it has to borrow.

To those who buy Gilts the Government pays a fixed rate of interest, normally over a set period. At the end of this period, repayment of a capital sum is guaranteed.

''Suddenly, with sterling back above \$1.50... all those reasons for caution in gilts could be pushed into the background''

Financial Weekly, April 8, 1983

When interest rates are falling (as they have done recently) a Gilt's fixed rate begins to offer an improved value. And this usually leads to a rise in the price of Gilts traded on the Stock Market.

So, the Gilt investor gets the best of both worlds: higher interest and the chance of capital growth.

How to get into Gilts now

Because the Gilt market is complex - and subject to fluctuations - we believe the best way to invest in Gilts is through a unit trust.

The TSB Gilt & Fixed Interest Unit Trust sets out to achieve a high income with long term capital growth, especially in periods of falling interest rates.

The Managers of the Trust may, from time to time, invest in other fixed interest securities (local authority bonds and some public companies' loan stocks, for example) but they will, usually, concentrate on Gilts.

For your guidance, the estimated gross yield on Income Units in the TSB Gilt & Fixed Interest Unit Trust on April 14th was 9.6%, based on the offer price of 50.9p ruling on that date.

Gilts glisten as sterling shines



Remember, the price of units, and the income from them, can go down as well as up. You should regard your investment as being a medium to long term one.

Why invest with the TSB? The Gilt market is an attractive one, but it needs experience, vision and flair to make the most of its investment opportunities.

Central Trustee Savings Bank Limited, the Investment Managers of the TSB Gilt & Fixed Interest Unit Trust, have all the skills needed. They are, in fact, one of the largest and most experienced dealers in the market, with a proven track record.

Invest now for a bonus

To invest in the TSB Gilt & Fixed Interest Unit Trust, simply complete the coupon below and return it to us, with your cheque, made payable to TSB Unit Trusts Limited.

Do this within the next ten days, and we will add a further 1% to your investment, free.

That, in itself, should make you glad you chose to switch your investment into Gilts now.

THE THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

The Managers of the TSB Gilt & Fixed Interest Unit Trust are TSB Unit Trusts Limited who are members of the Unit Trust Association. The Investment Managers are Central Trustee Savings Bank Limited and the Trustee is General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation plc.

Units in the Trust may be bought and sold on any business day. Their prices and yields will be quoted in the Financial Times and other leading newspapers and may also be obtained from any branch of the TSB.

The initial management charge on every purchase of units is 3%, out of which remuneration is paid to qualified intermediaries. (Rates are available on request.) A monthly management charge of 1/80th of 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Trust is deducted from the Trust's income. (The Trust Deed allows for a maximum charge of 1/12th of 1% per month; the Managers will give unit holders at least 3 months' written notice of any change.)

Net income is paid out on March 5, June 5, September 5 and December 5 each year. We offer favourable exchange terms to investors who already hold Gilts, stocks and shares or other TSB Unit Trusts. Details are available on request. TSB Unit Trusts Limited is a subsidiary of TSB Trust Company Limited and a member of the TSB Group. Its registered office is at Keens House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG. The company is registered in England and Wales, number 1629925.

1% Bonus Allocation of FREE Units if you invest in the TSB Gilt & Fixed Interest Unit Trust within 10 days of the date of this newspaper offer.

Mornington Money ORDINARY SHARE RATE 7.30% EQUIVALENT TO 10.43% If you pay 30% tax

TSB BASE RATE With effect from the close of business on Thursday, 15th April, 1983 and until further notice TSB Base Rate will be 10% per annum

BANK OF SCOTLAND Base Rate The Bank of Scotland intimates that, with effect from 15th April, 1983, and until further notice, its Base Rate will be decreased from 10 1/2% PER ANNUM to 10% PER ANNUM.

TSB GILT & FIXED INTEREST UNIT TRUST Details Application Form valid for 10 days from the date of this newspaper offer. To: Andrew Ferguson, TSB Unit Trusts Limited, Keens House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG Telephone (0264) 62188.

FAMILY MONEY

Unlisted Securities Market

Miss World tests sceptics

For the first time this week you could buy a stake in Miss World.

About 47 per cent of Mr Eric Morley's beauty competition company was floated on the Unlisted Securities Market (USM) and the shares soared from 60p to 133p on the first day of dealings.

The spectacular launch of the stock poses yet another challenge to the sceptics, who believe that the popularity of a number of USM companies will be short lived.

But many small investors just do not have the capital to build up a reasonable USM portfolio on their own.

Well over a year ago the Department of Trade increased the 5 per cent ceiling on unit trust investments in unquoted companies to 20 per cent of assets in the USM and 5 per cent in the over-the-counter market.

Save and Prosper is cautious about the USM, too. Its relaunched Smaller Companies Fund can invest up to the 25 per cent ceiling, but fund manager Mr John Shelley says that he has not bought a single USM stock yet for the £15m fund.

His colleague, Mr Stephen Hargreaves, voices a common feeling: "We tend to avoid the USM, you're at the mercy of the speculators; there's the marketability problem and our funds do have income needs and so many USM stocks don't pay decent dividends."

However, S & P do have an offshore, Jersey based UK Growth Fund, worth £8m, which has about 10 per cent invested in the USM, and the speculative stock Bio-Isolates

accounts for over 4 per cent of the portfolio. The fund with the greatest USM content is Britannia's Unlisted Securities Market Fund, also Jersey-based, which is 75 per cent invested in USM stocks authorised unit trusts, neither of these funds is restricted to the 25 per cent limit.

Most of the growth in the Britannia fund, which is set up in October 1981, has come in the last 12 months, with a 48 per cent rise in value. Mr Ian Forsyth, adviser to the trust, says that since the public has become aware of the strength of the USM in the last six months, the inflow of funds has been enormous.

Mr James Caulfield, investment manager at M & G says its Smaller Companies Fund has raised its limit, USM exposure is 4 per cent of the £27m fund. He does not think it will go to the limit, but there will certainly be increase.

Perhaps the attitude will change once the Department of Trade sees fit to allow an authorized USM unit trust. The success of Britannia will be an important barometer if other fund managers are to widen the market for the small investor.

Hilaire Gomer



Eurocheques

A cash alternative for travellers

Your domestic cheque guarantee card will not be valid from May 1 outside the United Kingdom, and if you want to draw on your current account while you are in Europe, the Near East or North Africa you will have to make other arrangements.

If you bank with the Midland or one of its subsidiaries, that involves asking for uniform Eurocheques and a uniform Eurocheque guarantee card (you will have to pay £3.50 for the latter).

Uniform Eurocheques can be used in banks, hotels and retailers displaying the Eurocheques sign, in Europe and the Mediterranean countries.

You write out your cheque in the local currency, and it is subsequently converted to sterling and debited to your account at home. It is an ingeniously simple system, though you do not have control over the currency conversion rate and it is relatively expensive (28p a cheque, plus 1/4 per cent of the face value when the cheque is drawn outside the UK. A £75 cheque would therefore cost you more than £1).

If you have an account with one of the other banks, you will have to ask for a cheque guarantee card that is valid in Europe. You can use this to back your domestic cheques,

drawn in sterling, in European banks displaying the EC sign (but not in hotels or retailers). As with the uniform Eurocheque, your account at home will eventually be debited with your withdrawal; but in this case you can see for yourself the rate at which the conversion is being made.

If you are going further afield, you will need travellers' cheques. In that case there are certain things to be born in mind.

In most countries it does not matter what denomination you use; but if you are going to the United States there is no point in taking anything other than the dollar.

Most American banks have no experience of making currency translations and will simply refuse to do it.

Remember that you pay for travellers' cheques when you take delivery of them, rather

than when (or after) you use them to pay for things. This means that there is no point in ordering them too far in advance. Nor is there any point in hanging on to them after your travel is over.

It is true that you will save yourself the one per cent commission that you would otherwise have to pay next time you bought; but you could probably earn far more than that if you cash them in.

You do not have to pay that one per cent commission anyway. Several building societies now issue cheque commission free to their investors.

Do remember to sign the cheques (once) before you leave the office where you bought them. And don't keep the sales advice (giving their numbers) in the same handbag or hip pocket.

Adrienne Gleeson

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks Current account - no interest paid. Deposit accounts - Midland, Barclays, Lloyds, Natwest 6 1/2 per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. Monthly income account Natwest 9 1/2 per cent. Saver deposit £2,500-£25,000 - 1 month 9.25 per cent, 3 and 6 months 9 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Money funds Seven-day deposits. Simco 7-day fund - 10.18 per cent. UDT Average Rate Deposits - 10 1/2 per cent. Simco dollar fund - 7.80 per cent. Western Trust one month Money-market a/c 9.75 per cent. Malinthal 10.1 per cent call. Tyndall 7-day fund 10.25 per cent. Save and Prosper high interest a/c 10.55 per cent. Interest paid without deduction of tax. Tullet & Riley Money market Trust Call Fund - min £10,000 10.31 per cent. 7-day fund - £2,500 10.34 per cent. Further details from: Simco 01-226 0233. UDT 01-623 3020. Tyndall 0272 782241. Western Trust 0752 261161. Malinthal 01-489 9834. Save and Prosper 0798 68966. Tullet & Riley 238 0852.

National Savings Bank Ordinary accounts - interest 3 per cent or 6 per cent if £500 is maintained, first £70 of interest tax-free. Investment Account 1 1/2 per cent interest paid without deduction of tax. monthly notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £200,000.

National Savings Certificates 25th issue Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 7.51 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

National Savings Income Bond Min investment £5,000 reducing to £2,000 from 3 May - max. £200,000. Interest - 11 per cent variable at six weeks notice - paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 or 5 months notice - check penalties.

National Savings 2nd index-linked certificates Maximum investment £10,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. Supplement of 0.2 per cent per month up to October 1983 paid to new investors; existing holders receive a 2.4 per cent supplement between October 1982 and October 1983 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 Retirement issue certificates purchased in April 1978, £176.73 including 4 per cent bonus.

Guaranteed Income Bonds Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further facility on maturity. 2 years General Portfolio 8 per cent min investment £1,000. 3 years General Portfolio 8.4 per cent min investment £1,000. 4 years General Portfolio 8.8 per cent min investment £1,000. 5 years Canterbury Life 9 per cent min investment £1,000.

Local authority yearling bonds 12-month fixed rate investments, interest 10 per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers). Local authority town hall bonds Fixed term, fixed rate investments. Interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 year Lambeth 9 1/2 per cent. 2-3 years Nottingham City 10 1/2 per cent. 4-6 years Northampton 11 per cent. 7-10 years Worthing 11 per cent. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance Loans Bureau (01-630 7401, after 3 pm). See also on Prestal no 24808.

Finance house deposits (UDT) Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deductions of tax. Fifty-fifty scheme: 6 months 5 1/2 per cent; 1 year, 10 per cent; 2 years, 10 1/2 per cent.

Foreign currency deposits Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Course Ltd, Reference 0481 26741. Seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

US dollar 8.35 per cent 7 day 8.50 per cent 1 month 8.75 per cent French Franc 10.85 per cent Swiss Franc 3.16 per cent February RPI: 327.3 (The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month.)

FREE PRIZE DRAW WIN £1000

How to make 200% profit on the Stock Market in just 35 days

At 9am on November 10th 1982, in an operation which involved split second timing, we advised our subscribers to buy Bio-Isolates (Holdings) Ltd at 110p.

At 9am on December 15th, we told them that "If you want a really quick profit" sell at 330p.

By acting quickly on our inside information readers who sold in December made 200% profit in just five weeks. Those who ignored our advice saw the shares rise to 440p (+300%) but they have since fallen dramatically.

It may surprise you to hear that to our regular subscribers this is not an exceptional story.

Over the last year, taking into account all losses, they will have seen a spectacular growth in the shares we recommended.

Are you free to act quickly?

The secret of this financial success is Stock Market Confidential (SMC), posted to subscribers first class every Wednesday evening. In it we make comprehensive buying and selling recommendations, offer sound investment analysis and, most important of all, suggest three hot tips for the week.

The proven way to make a killing

If you examine our investment tipping record for 1982/3 shown you'll see that, even taking into account the losses, there was an extremely healthy growth every month.

The only way to make a killing on the Stock Market is to have reliable advice and the ability to move fast, before the word gets around and prices rocket.

You can buy with confidence

The editor of Stockmarket Confidential is Malcolm Craig; if you're a major investor or a professional stockbroker you'll probably know him personally.

Otherwise you may have read him in the financial press, or one of his highly respected investment books.

What you probably didn't know is that each week he chairs a private meeting of the SMC Board of Advisors. Together these financial specialists pool information, validate sources, and discuss the latest City whispers. At the end of the meeting they have chosen the USM 'tip of the week' and three other of the hottest tips.

We guarantee that none of these tips will be leaked by the Editorial Board, or published, except in SMC.

Which means you can act with total confidence on Thursday morning.

SMC Growth Record 82/3

Top Performing Share: Security Tag Systems: +640% Average Growth Per 'Hot Tip' (including losses): +35% Average holding period: 10.7 weeks

SMC Weekly Contents:

- * Three 'Hot Tips' - act by Thursday lunchtime before other subscribers push up the prices.
* USM Tip of the Week - aimed at fast in and out profits.
* Comprehensive investment analysis including gold, building societies and gilts.
* Valuable inside information for long term capital growth.

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On Thursday May 5th, if you're the winner, you'll receive £800 to spend or invest as you please.

We'd suggest you invest it evenly across our 'hot tips' for that week. Because if you do, and your £800 of shares aren't worth £1000 by June 2nd, we'll make up the difference in cash. That's right. We're so confident that our advice is sound we believe £800 will be worth £1000 in just four weeks.

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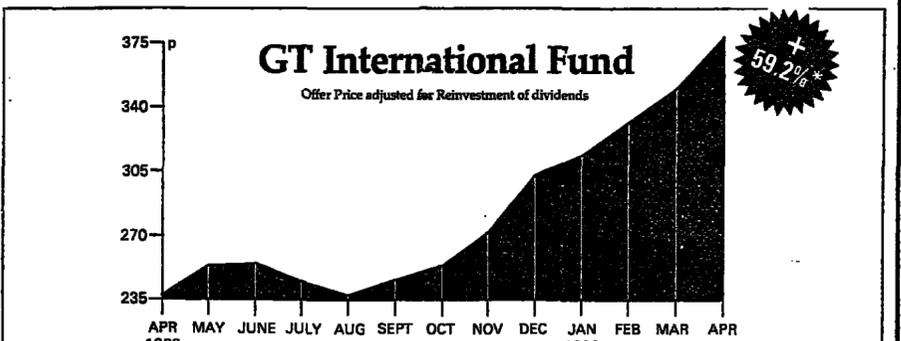
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General Information Trustee: Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS. The trust is authorised by the Department of Trade and qualifies as a 'wider range' investment under the Trustee Investment Act 1961. The offer price of units on 12th April 1983 was 371.8p and the est. gross yield was 0.5%. Applications will be acknowledged and certificates will be issued within six weeks. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price. An annual charge of 1% + V.A.T. of the capital value of the Fund is deducted from the gross income of the Fund to defray management expenses. Subject to this annual charge, and net of tax, income is allocated to Unitholders each 21st April and 21st October. (First payment in response to this advertisement will be 21st October 1983). Units may be sold back at any time at the bid price ruling on receipt of your renounced certificate and payment will normally be made in 7 days. Prices of units and yields are quoted in the National Press and following an initial purchase, they may be bought in multiples of ten. Commission is paid to recognised agents out of the initial charge (Rates available on request). The Managers are GT Unit Managers Ltd, 16 Finsbury Circus, London EC2. Registered in London No. 903827. Members of the Unit Trust Association. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland. An investment in any unit trust should be considered long term and it should be remembered that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. Source: Planned Savings

GT INTERNATIONAL FUND. I/We wish to invest the sum of £ (minimum £500) in units of GT INTERNATIONAL FUND at the price ruling on the day you receive this application. Cheques should be made payable to GT Unit Managers Ltd. If you normally use an agent please pass this application to him or complete the details in the box. I/We enclose a cheque for the amount to be invested. An account cannot be opened in the name of a minor but applications can be made by an adult and the account designated, i.e. 'A', 'B' or with the minor's initials. Tick box if dividends are to be reinvested. AGENT'S NAME & ADDRESS. Signature, Full Forenames, Date of Birth, Surname, Address.

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County Financial Services. To: County Financial Services, Orient House, 42-45 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1QY. Tel: 01-628 0898. Name, Address, Tel: (Home), (Business), Date of birth, Amount available for investment, Manchester Office: Queen's Street, Manchester M2 5HT. Tel: 061-832 2232.

Handwritten text: 428/101350

FAMILY MONEY

Alternative investment

Why theatre angels are keen on Mr Cinders' Fortune venue

The morning after the press preview of *Mr Cinders* - a new musical, which is due to open in the Fortune Theatre in London on April 27 - will be a tense time for the small band of private investors who have helped put up the money for the production.

For the reviews in their newspapers will give them a good idea of whether their gamble is going to pay off.

If this delightful musical - which stars Dennis Lawson as a twenties-style male Cinderella - goes down well, the returns on a minimum £500 stake could be substantial. But if it flops - and press reviews are rarely wrong - this is money down the drain.

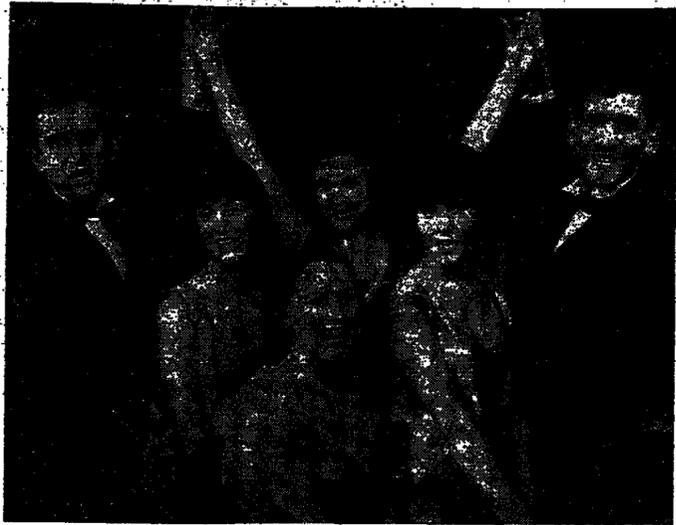
Whatever the outcome, these backers (or "angels" in theatre vernacular) will have had the satisfaction of knowing that their money made the production possible. For, as in so many West End shows, the capital is largely drawn from the private investor.

Mr Cinders is a good example of how this works. The show enjoyed packed houses during its run in the small Kings Head theatre pub in Islington. Producer Dan Crawford soon realised that he was on to a winner and launched a drive to raise £120,000 for a West End transfer.

The money flowed in from a surprisingly wide range of people. Two newspaper advertisements drew in £20,000 from a City investor, while a slip in the programme attracted a steady stream of individuals and groups who clubbed together to put down a £500 stake.

The investment risk is enormous. At least two producers reckon that a new West End production has only a one-in-five chance of making a profit.

If an investor backs a winner,



Mr Cinders: angels' delight

however, the return is substantial. For a stake of £500 (the usual unit), an angel will get a proportionate share in 60 percent of all profits. The other 40 per cent goes to the producing management.

Backers will also benefit from any further spin-offs from the original production - such as films, records, tours or Broadway transfers - at the same rate. Inside information suggests that a stake in the long running *Evita*, for example, may now have paid out 500 per cent on the original investment.

An average West End pro-

duction could cost around £120,000 to stage. (Elaborate musicals can cost £500,000 and more). At a rough estimate, for an average theatre running costs may be £12,000 per week, and there is a potential £24,000 (from a packed house) at every performance. This leaves the maximum earning potential at £12,000, which means that a production - at the very best - could break even in 10 weeks.

In reality, a hit show may only produce a return after several months, while flops fold very quickly indeed.

Dan Crawford is adamant

that no-one should contemplate backing a stage production if they cannot afford to lose the original stake. Backing a production is essentially a "fun" investment, giving the investor the exciting feeling of being associated with the theatre, together with the (rather remote) possibility that he will make his fortune.

At present two kinds of productions rely on the small investor: potential West End shows and provincial touring groups. West End ventures promise the greater returns but also carry the greater risks. Many touring groups are guaranteed minimum returns to cover their capital outlay before the tour begins.

No one - not even seasoned critics - can explain what makes a play a success, and there are few hard and fast rules to guide the prospective angel.

Some of the most experienced backers study the "form" of producers as avidly as any bookie monitor a horse. They would tend to back any new play from a successful

producer and spare little cash for the unproven newcomer.

It does pay to study broad trends in the theatre and invest in a style of drama which is currently in vogue. At the moment, for instance, musicals are generally doing fairly well in the West End, while there appears to be little interest in naturalistic drama.

The pulling power of the stars is also particularly important, especially in the provinces where an auditorium can be filled by the reputation of a TV personality. West End audiences, by contrast, are more blasé and are not necessarily impressed by a household name.

If you are interested in backing a play, you should approach the producing management concerned. The Covent Garden-based Society of West End Theatres keeps a list of prospective backers which is regularly shown to producers in need of funds. The society says that it is keen to hear from new investors and will be glad to provide any necessary advice. Another useful guide for the budding angel is the theatrical publication *Contacts*, which provides a comprehensive directory of producers.

If the prospect of becoming an angel does not appeal immediately, don't put it aside for ever, there is some hope that this kind of investment will become tax deductible in future.

At present all returns on theatre investment are taxable, but losses are not tax deductible. The Society of West End Theatres is continually lobbying the Treasury to provide tax relief and reports that its request is currently getting a sympathetic hearing.

At least two recent Finance Bills have introduced measures which in theory could provide tax relief for angels but which in the event are not practicable. Section 37 of the 1980 Finance Act, for example, allows investors to offset losses. But it requires the formation of a new company for every new venture. Given the short duration of most plays this would just not be possible in the theatre world.

Patrick Donovan

Shares

Returns on option schemes to be cut

There was inevitable, but sad news for investors with savings-related share option schemes this week, when Mr Nicholas Ridley, - the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, confirmed that the 14.9 per cent grossed up annual return that is available to the basic tax payer, and 26.1 per cent for top rate payers, is too good to last. A new rate is to be fixed at the same time as the £50 a month savings limit is raised to £75.

All the same, the expansion of this scheme has been one of the more successful results of lobbying by the Wider Share Ownership Council.

The council is not exactly a high profile group, although its MP members - they include Richard Wainwright and Edward du Cann - have financial backgrounds and have assiduously argued the case for tax reductions in the Commons. The personal sector as a percentage of total share ownership, by value, is shrinking. But numbers are being restored via schemes like these.

The council's pressure for a British equivalent to the French Loi Momy scheme has been less successful. Under this scheme, some investment by individuals in main-stream quoted companies, as opposed to business start-ups, is tax-deductible.

The council is pressing on with its attempt to reduce some of the tolls on individual share investment, for example, the stamp duty on the transfer of shares.

But it is doing nothing about the rates of commission charged by brokers, although there has been pressure for a reduction in the amount of paperwork required by legislation, for those who do not hand over discretion to their brokers.

London commission rates remain high by international standards, although many brokers maintain that small deals are still not economic.

What the council will not take on is the cause of any of the new employee shareholders who are unlucky in their investments. But it has applied pressure for simple accounts to show how companies are handling their capital flows.

Sally White

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I enclose a cheque payable to Lawson Fund Managers Ltd, to be invested in Lawson High Yield Fund. (Share Certificates will also be accepted for exchange into Units - All details on request.)

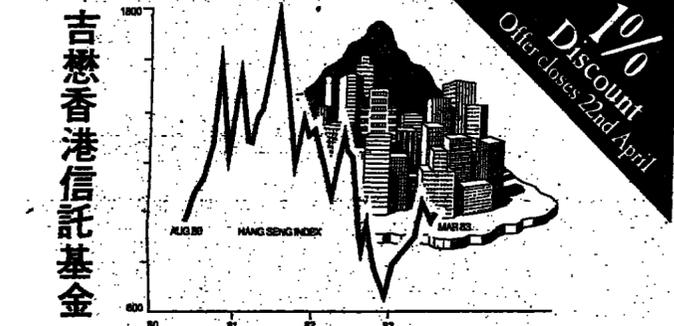
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HY14T 184



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The new Gartmore Hong Kong Trust.

A fierce commitment to capitalism, an ambitious and energetic business community, a young, hard-working population: these have made Hong Kong one of the world's most dynamic economies. Over the past two decades this has meant average real growth of 9% p.a. and high returns to investors.

But in 1982, heavily hit by the world slump and political worries, the Hong Kong market had a disastrous year. From a peak of 1810 on 17 July, 1981 the Hang Seng Index dropped over 1100 points to 676 on 2 December, 1982, before recovering at current levels.

Because of this dramatic drop - plus signs that the world recession is ending - we believe that Hong Kong offers enormous recovery potential. And now, while the stock market is still far below its previous peaks, we have launched the new Gartmore Hong Kong Trust - investing solely in Hong Kong - to allow investors to take advantage of this opportunity.

Growth potential

Already the influences which produced the 1982 crash are beginning to look more favourable. At Gartmore we believe that Hong Kong's economic growth will be 4% - 6% over the next two years (compared with 1 1/2% - 3% globally), on the way back to its previous 9% level. As investor confidence returns, Hong Kong looks set to stage a major recovery in 1983. At the leading edge of world trade

In the all-important international trade markets Hong Kong adopts an opportunistic and flexible approach that enables the Colony to capitalise on world demands. America's consumer spending, which is of vital importance to Hong Kong's exports, is now looking healthier - and entrepreneurs and workers alike are preparing for rich rewards from revitalisation of the world economy generally.

Property - the worst is over

In the property markets, which were hit by a collapse of 30% to 80% in property and land prices, there are signs of a return to confidence. Rents are stabilising, and, while large property profits may not reappear just yet, we believe that the largest part of the crash is over.

A new Lease of life

In 1982, the seeming lack of progress on the renegotiation of the lease on the New Territories, weighed heavily on Hong Kong's markets.

But Gartmore believe that a satisfactory compromise with China over the lease will be achieved, boosting stockmarket confidence and with it the

hope that closer economic relations with China will bring tremendous gains.

Aiming for growth

The main emphasis of Gartmore's Hong Kong Trust will be on investments which we believe stand to gain most from the Colony's impending recovery.

The aim of the Trust is above-average growth and the income is therefore likely to be modest. The estimated current gross yield is 1.75% p.a.

The advantage of on-the-spot management

Gartmore has been involved in Hong Kong for nearly 20 years, being one of the first investment companies to take the Colony seriously. Today, with a wealth of expertise and local contacts via our Hong Kong office, we believe we are able to offer on-the-spot judgements and continue our reputation for success in Far East investment.

Invest promptly for 1% discount

You can invest from £200 upwards. If we receive your application on or before 22nd April, 1983, you will benefit from an additional 1% allocation of units. For your guidance the unit offer price on 14th April, 1983 was 25.4p. To invest, just complete and post this coupon below.

Remember the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. This investment offers the opportunity of higher-than-average returns from shares that are potentially volatile, and should ideally be viewed as part of your overall portfolio.

You can obtain information on other Gartmore unit trusts, and on Gartmore's Share Exchange Service, by ticking the appropriate box on the coupon.

Further information

Applications will be acknowledged, and certificates forwarded within six weeks.

You can sell your units back to us at not less than the minimum bid price on any dealing day. Prices and conditions are quoted in leading financial newspapers. You will receive a prospectus "working draft" of the Management Statement upon request. The Trust is a constituted and administered by a Trust Deed dated 21st January 1983.

Annual distributions are paid, out of the net income, from 15 April 1984. Income tax can be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue if you are entitled to do so.

The Trust has an initial management charge of 2% of the value of the units applied for from the time of issue of the offer price. The annual charge is set at 1% of the net income (plus 10% of the value of the fund (as compared with the unit price) per cent per annum) in the Trust Deed which is deducted from the net income and is already allowed for in the estimated current gross yield. Remittance is paid on qualified intermediate rate returns available on request.

The Trustee is Midland Bank Trust Company Limited, The Managers of the Trust are Gartmore Fund Managers Limited, 25, Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BP. Tel: 01-423 1232 (Member of the Unit Trust Association). This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Mortgages

Hambro set to beat home loan hitch

Hambro Life has big ambitions in the financial services market, and it moved a step nearer to realizing them last week when it introduced a unit-linked mortgage plan.

Unit-linked mortgages are not new, but they are not exactly familiar either. The reason? The building societies are very uneasy about them.

With any endowment-linked mortgage there is always a possibility that the proceeds of the endowment policy will not be sufficient to repay the loan on the house when the mortgage comes to an end.

With a unit-linked policy, where there is no way of smoothing out performance through the bonuses, the uncertainties are greater.

Hambro Life is getting round this problem by "reviewing" the policy at the end of the first 10 years, and more frequently thereafter.

If it looks as though there is going to be a shortfall, the policyholder will be asked to step up his premiums or arrange for an extension to the term of his mortgage.

The initial premiums are set at a level to produce exactly the right amount at the end of the term, on the assumption that the value of the units grows at 7.5 per cent a year, and by past standards that is conservative.

As with a conventional endowment mortgage, if the value of the units grows more rapidly than expected, the policyholder will end up with cash in hand as well as paying off the debt.

The beauty of this policy is its flexibility. The policyholder can choose between four funds (property, gilt-edged, fixed interest deposit or managed), and there are switching facilities.

If he wants to increase his mortgage (for example, if he moves) the same policy can be increased in amount or extended in term. There is no need to cash it in and start again.

And if he runs into problems with his payments, up to 12 months' contributions can be postponed, subject to the building society's agreement.

Initial premiums compare well with those quoted by other companies. A 29-year-old, for example, would have to pay £27.92 a month gross on a policy designed to produce £20,000 at the end of 25 years.

Two building societies have agreed to accept the Hambro Adaptable Mortgage Plan so far and others are being canvassed.

Gartmore Hong Kong Trust

To: Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd, 25, Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BP. Telephone: 01-423 1212. (Legal No. 119753). Bank address subject.

I/We enclose a cheque for £ _____ (minimum £200)

payable to Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd, to be invested in Gartmore Hong Kong Trust at the unit offer price ruling on the date of receipt.

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For details of the complete Gartmore unit-trust range.

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GARTMORE

£1,200,000,000 under Group Management

GT

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Increasingly, GT's unit trusts, offshore funds and unit-linked life policies are recommended by professional advisers.

Why?

The advisers like GT's performance, investment strategy, structure and simplicity.

Performance

Value of £1000 invested for 5 years from 1st April 1978 to 1st April 1983. ↑

*Four years (April 79-83) *As at 12th April 1983

These are five of GT's leading Unit Trusts covering the world's main stock market areas (GT Capital invests only in the UK.)

† Source: Money Management & Planned Savings.

Investment Strategy

The consistent performance is a result of GT's investment strategy, based on global flexibility with concentration on proven high quality growth companies. In addition, GT portfolios can move into cash when market conditions make this appropriate.

Structure

GT Management is an independent company responsible internationally for over £1 billion of client assets. Investment management is its sole business so that it is not affected by broking, banking or issuing considerations.

Simplicity

GT clients can switch between funds simply and at reasonable cost.

General Information:

Trustee: Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

The trusts are authorised by the Department of Trade and qualify as "wider range" investments under the Trustee Investment Act, 1961.

Applications will be acknowledged and certificates will be issued within six weeks. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price. An annual charge of 1% (GT Capital Fund 3%) +V.A.T. of the capital value of the Fund is deducted from the gross income of the Fund to defray management expenses. Details of distributions for each fund may be obtained from the managers. Units may be sold back at any time at the bid price ruling on receipt of your renounced certificate and payment will normally be made in 7 days. Prices of units and yields are quoted in the National Press and following an initial purchase, they may be bought in multiples of ten. Commission is paid to recognised agents out of the initial charge. (Rates available on request). The Managers are GT Unit Managers Ltd, 16 Finsbury Circus, London EC2A 7DQ. Registered in London No. 903827. Members of the Unit Trust Association. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

An investment in any unit trust should be considered long term and it should be remembered that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

I/We wish to invest the sum of £ _____ (minimum £500) in units of GT _____ FUND at the price ruling on the day you receive this application. Cheques should be made payable to GT Unit Managers Ltd.

If you normally use an agent please pass this application to him or complete the details in the box.

I/We enclose a cheque for the amount to be invested.

An account cannot be opened in the name of a minor but applications can be made by an adult and the account designated, i.e. 'A', 'B' or with the minor's initials.

Tick box if dividends are to be reinvested

Signature: _____

(In the case of joint applications all must sign and provide names and addresses on a separate sheet)

Full Forenames: _____

Block letters (Please state Mr, Mrs, Miss or Title)

Surname: _____

Address: _____

AGENTS NAME & ADDRESS

T18/4

GT UNIT MANAGERS

Park House
16 Finsbury Circus
London EC2M 7DQ
or Tel: 01-628 8131

THE GT GROUP

FAMILY MONEY

The building societies' difficulty in attracting savers, the Government's action in raising the mortgage tax relief limit to £30,000, and the customary spring housemoving fever have combined to produce queues and quotas for mortgage finance once again.

The banks, which entered the house loans market with enthusiasm, have recently seemed to be withdrawing with untimely haste. And building societies cannot meet the demand for funds - now running at more than £800m a month.

So can people still turn to their banks? If they do, will they find a pot of gold or a mess of pottage?

Although as much as £150m a month is still available from the clearing banks as a whole, there is a considerable variation in the commitment by individual banks.

Customers of Williams & Glyn have little chance of assistance. Of the £5,500m so far advanced for house purchase by the clearers, it has provided £150m and there is little more to come at present. The bank is not encouraging applications, and even the most valued customer may not be successful.

The Midland has also severely restricted its involvement. Having achieved its ambitions in this area far more quickly than expected, shutters came most of the way down when total loans hit the £1,000m mark. Lending last autumn was running at a rate of £65m to £70m per month, but there is now little more than £10m available on a monthly basis.

Lloyds Bank, which has lent £1,600m, is still in the market.

Mortgages

How banks vary in attitudes to home loans

but curtailed its activity from last autumn by lending only for main homes, raising the cost of an endowment mortgage by half a percentage point and excluding those who had not been customers for at least six months. If you meet Lloyds' criteria, however, you should get a loan straight away, and join the ranks of the 80,000 who have been successful.

National Westminster had £1,250m outstanding at the end of last year, having lent £1,000m in the year. They plan to continue lending at that sort of rate this year, so that they could be meeting 10 per cent of the total demand.

Mr Philip Wilkinson, group chief executive went on record last November with a long term commitment to the mortgage market, and there is every indication that this is still the case.

Barclays, too, remain firmly involved in the long term. They have already lent £2,000m, which is in excess of their original plans. Nevertheless, £400m is being made available for new lending this year and existing customers of more than six months standing should not have to wait, if they meet the bank's criteria.

Most of the banks will lead up to two and a half times gross

salary, plus the equivalent of once the second or lower income in the case of joint applicants. But there are variations in this formula, and flexibility in borderline cases.

All the banks provide their customers with a copy of the surveyor's report. They do not insist on house and endowment insurance being arranged through their own insurance broking operations, but obviously prefer it. They will certainly need to be satisfied that the insurer is British based and of high reputation.

There are a number of special schemes, the most common being a savers' service, which is a regular savings plan under which the bank guarantees a mortgage or at any rate preferential treatment at the end of the road. But the schemes do vary considerably in what they demand and offer.

Terms and rates of interest vary, particularly in the case of endowment mortgages.

John Duncan

John Duncan is the author of *How to Manage Your Bank Mortgage*

	Maximum amount (£)	Maximum % (of purchase price or valuation, whichever is the lower)	Interest Rate:		Arrangement Fee
			repayment mortgage	endowment mortgage	
Barclays	100,000 (40,000 1st time buyers)	80% 90%	10.25% (Apr: 10.6%)	11.25% (Apr: 11.7%)	£65
Nat West	150,000	90% up to £40,000 85% £40,000-75,000 80% £75,000+	10% (Apr: 10.7%)	11% (Apr: 11.6%)	£75
Lloyds	No maximum	80%	10.2% (Apr: 10.7%)	10.7% (Apr: 11.2%)	None
Midland	150,000	80%	10.75% (Apr: 11.2%)	11.25% (Apr: 11.7%)	£2 per 1,000 (minimum £50)
Williams & Glyn's	No maximum	95%	10.25% (Apr: 10.6%)	10.25% (Apr: 10.6%)	None

Miras

More help for expatriates

British expatriates, already helped by tax concessions on income earned abroad, are to receive further assistance from the Chancellor under the new Miras arrangements for mortgage repayments.

Not, it should be said, that the Chancellor has ever discriminated against those who choose to work abroad. In certain circumstances they have already been able to claim tax relief on mortgage interest.

Miras, however, has handed that relief on a plate to many thousands of Britons who live abroad - many of them more or less permanently - and who have not paid a penny in tax to the Inland Revenue for years.

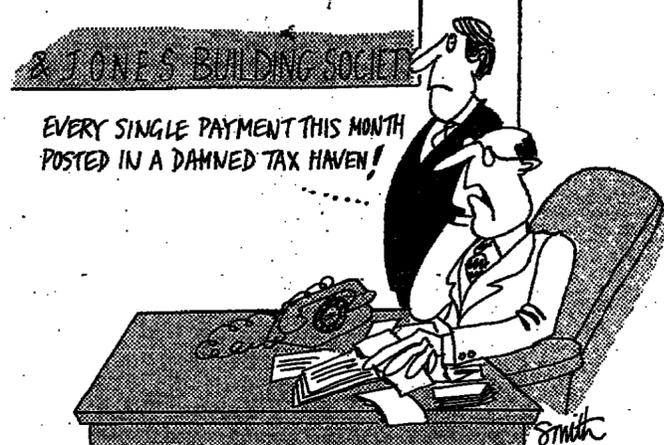
It is, in fact, a windfall for anyone buying a house in the United Kingdom, even if he pays his salary into a tax free account in the Caymans or the Isle of Man.

Under various bits of legislation stretching back to the 1973 Finance Act, most expatriates are as much entitled to tax relief on their mortgages as those who work in Britain.

In practice however, most have not claimed such relief. Miras has changed the mechanics. Relief is now given at source whether the borrower claims it or not.

So even when the borrower has no intention of returning to Britain - and paying income tax - he can claim the same relief as someone who lives here.

There are certain conditions,



but possession of the much-vaunted status of "non-resident" is not one of them. To qualify for relief under Miras, interest on the mortgage must be paid in Britain to a "qualifying lender," which covers nearly all banks and building societies. The house on which Miras is claimed must also be the claimant's only or main residence.

Expatriates maintaining their wives and families here should have no difficulty in proving this point. One complication might disqualify expatriates for part of the relief available to others where an endowment policy has been arranged with a company outside the British premium relief scheme (including those based in various tax havens) as

tax relief is not available. As the Inland Revenue explained with just the smallest sigh of relief: "We can't reimburse companies outside of the scheme." But the Revenue can - and certainly will - reimburse building societies for applying Miras to expatriate accounts. How taxpayers feel about that remains to be seen.

If you've got the time, we've got the interest.

SEVEN DAY ACCOUNT

6.75% Net p.a.

= 9.64% Gross

HIGH OPTION BONDSHARES

7.25% Net p.a.

= 10.36% Gross

*Equivalent gross rate when income tax is paid at a basic rate of 30%.

FOR SEVEN DAY MONEY

You can come into our Seven Day Account with just £100. With no financial penalties to pay when you withdraw - all we require is 7 days' written notice.

ABBEY NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY, 27 BAKER STREET LONDON W1M 2AA

FOR NINETY DAY MONEY

With High Option Bondshares, we'll pay 1.00% more than our current Share rate, for investments of £500 or more, on 90 days' written notice of withdrawal. This differential is guaranteed for a whole year. Interest available half-yearly or monthly.

To: Department M.S.2, Abbey National Building Society, FREEPOST, United Kingdom House, 180 Oxford Street, London W1E 3YZ.

I/We enclose a Cheque numbered _____ for £ _____

to be invested in a Seven Day Account High Option Bondshare (Tick appropriate box) at my/our local branch in _____

Please send me full details and an application card. Maximum investment: £30,000 per person, £60,000 joint account. I/We understand that the interest rates may vary.

Full name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

ABBEY NATIONAL MONEY SERVICE

National insurance

Top earners feel the pinch over contributions

This year's rises in national insurance contributions are once again upon us. For the second year, many people are going to find themselves paying more than £1,000, and out of already taxed income at that, in order to finance their state benefits. In practical terms, the rises mean that up to an extra £2.30 a week will have to be found in many cases.

Everyone has to pay more, but as it now the regular pattern, those on higher incomes are being hardest hit. With this ever-increasing burden, it is not surprising that more and more grumbles are being heard about the fact that the contributions come out of taxed income.

At the very least, it is argued, they should be treated in the same way as contributions paid into employers' pension schemes, and be allowed tax relief. However, such a change is not on the cards in the future. So what then do the rises mean for the present?

The rate of deduction goes up from 8.75 per cent to a full 9 per cent. In addition, the earnings ceiling - over which no extra contributions have to be paid - goes up from £220 to £235 a week. This is where the pinch can really be felt.

On the plus side, the amount of earnings below which contributions do not have to be paid goes up from £29.50 to £32.50 a week. However, no contributions means no benefits.

The following examples show what the changes mean.

Weekly pay	1982-83 NI contrib- tion	new NI contrib- tion	increase
£20	£2.25	£2.40	15p
£70	£6.13	£6.58	45p
£100	£8.75	£9.30	55p
£220 (old maximum)	£18.25	£19.50	£1.25
£235 (new maximum)	£18.25	£21.15	£2.90

This means that a "top" earner, someone with more than £12,220 a year, has to pay about £1,100 a year in national insurance contributions out of

pretaxed income. This is about £80 more than in 1982/83.

The changes are different for people in employers' pension schemes which are contracted out of the state pension arrangements. Their contributions, too, are higher.

A change in the way in which the contributions are calculated means bigger rises than for those who are not covered by company pension schemes.

Weekly pay	1982-83 NI contrib- tion	new NI contrib- tion	increase
£20	£2.48	£4.80	£2.32
£70	£6.98	£7.54	56p
£100	£11.38	£12.34	96p
£220 (old maximum)	£14.49	£16.76	£2.27
£235 (new maximum)	£14.49	£16.76	£2.27

For the third year running, married women who have the right to pay lower contributions have to find more, even though their contributions do not bring them any state benefits.

Before April 1981, their rate had not changed since 1975, when contributions became earnings related. Their rate shows a steep rise from 3.2 per cent to 3.85 per cent, and this means increases ranging from 21p to £2.01 a week. The reason given for this apparently steep rise is that from April they can get a benefit, in the form of sick pay from their employers, which they could not get before.

The self employed do not escape, either. Both the flat rate weekly stamp and their earnings related levy go up. The stamp rises by 65p a week to £4.40. The profits related part of their national insurance payment goes up from 6 per cent and is applied to profits between £3,800 and £12,000 a year instead of £3,450 and £11,000. Taken together, these changes mean increases of up to £97.40 a year.

The minority who pay contributions voluntarily are also hit. Here, the weekly stamp goes up by 65p to £4.30 a week.

Ian McDonald

Granville & Co Limited.
(Formerly M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited)
27/28 Lovat Lane, London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212
The Over-the-Counter Market

Share	Low	Company	Price	Change	Open	High	Low	High	Yield	Div	Yield
142	120	Ass Brit Ind Ord	135	-	6.4	4.7	7.9	10.3			
158	117	Ass Brit Ind CULS	151	-	10.0	6.6	-	-			
74	57	Ainsprug Group	62	-	6.1	9.8	17.7	17.7			
46	30	Armitage & Rhodes	30	-	14.3	3.1	5.9				
315	197	Bardon Hill	315	-	11.4	13.2	16.7				
142	100	OCL 11.0% Conv Pref	142	+1	15.7	11.1	-	-			
270	210	Candion Group	210	-	17.6	8.4	-	-			
86	32	Deborah Services	32	-	6.0	11.5	3.4	9.3			
97	77	Frank Horrell	97	-	-	-	8.1	8.7			
95 1/2	75 1/2	Frank Horrell Pl Ord 87	95.5	-	8.7	9.1	10.6	11.4			
83	61	Frederick Parker	62	-	7.1	11.5	5.1	6.2			
100	34	George Blair	34	-	-	-	5.9	12.3			
55	74	Ind Proc Castings	80	-	7.3	9.1	10.3	13.0			
161	100	Isis Conv Pref	161	+2	15.7	9.8	-	-			
143	94	Jackson Group	142	-	7.5	5.3	4.4	9.0			
206	111	James Brrough	206	+1	9.6	4.7	15.0	16.7			
260	148	Robert Jenkins	154	-	20.0	13.0	1.6	24.4			
83	54	Sarsons "A"	71	-	11.4	10.0	5.1	8.7			
167	112	Torday & Cattle	114	-	0.6	1.8	-	-			
29	21	Unilock Holdings	25.5	-	0.6	1.8	-	-			
85	64	Walker Alexander	67	-	6.4	9.6	4.8	6.9			
270	214	W.S. Yates	264	+1	17.1	6.5	4.1	8.4			

Prices now available on Prestel, page 48146

مركزنا من الامارات

FAMILY MONEY

Markets

Lower interest rates bring cheer to world economies

Equity markets soared again this week, with investors buying heavily on the hopes of a pick-up in consumer demand as lower interest rates boost economies all round the world.

As Wall Street surges on, without stopping to consolidate, sentiment among brokers remains strongly optimistic. Bull markets are expected to be a feature for most of 1983.

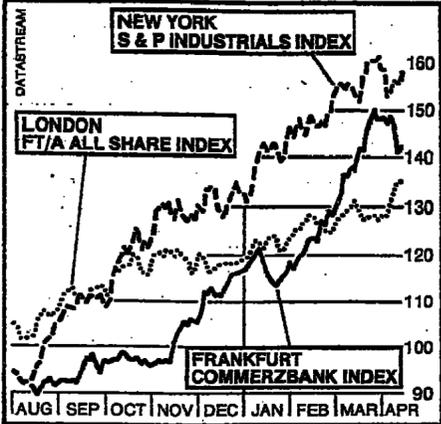
London saw an official interest rate cut this week, with the banks reducing base rates by half a point to 10 per cent, and money market rates drifted down in most centres, in line with rates in New York.

German rates were cut heavily last month and Japan is expected to make a cut as soon as US rates come down decisively. Other central banks will follow suit, as most want to give a boost to their stagnating economies.

London had a very cheerful tone to it this week, following a succession of good company results. Lower sterling is helping exports, and making the United Kingdom less attractive as an import market.

Brokers' comment points out that virtually all sectors of the market are now rising. Investors seem to have decided that the coming election can be ignored. The return of Mrs Thatcher is the City's bet at the moment.

Another ingredient in London's bull market is the new confidence in Opec's ability to stabilize the oil price, which had led to some stability in sterling. But that does not mean that there has been a rush to buy oil shares. The popular sectors have been electricals, building materials, paper and packaging and chemicals.



The gilt markets have put in a robust performance so far this year, thanks to the downward trend of interest rates and the belief that continued Conservative rule will result in tight monetary policies.

Wall Street is not expected to peak until near the end of the year. Phillips & Drew suggest the growth in earnings in 1983 could be 25 per cent, and that the S & P composite index could rise to around 175 against the current level of 158.

Dividends are expected to grow by around 5 per cent this year and the average price earnings ratio is expected to drop from the current level of 12.2 per cent to 10.7 per cent.

In New York much of the big funds money, as well as that of overseas investors, is still in the bond and money markets,

enjoying the high level of yield and waiting to take profits in fixed interest stocks as interest rates fall. The Federal Reserve Board will probably be cautious in the extent to which it allows credit to expand, for fear of pushing up inflation rates again; but some further fall in interest rates is still expected.

Phillips & Drew suggest that utilities, in the form of AT & T, still look attractive. The fall in credit terms has increased car sales, and General Motors and Good year Tyre & Rubber will benefit from that factor. They suggest that Levi Strauss will benefit from higher Main Street spending.

The prospects for Japan are less clear. There is an increasingly strong lobby against Japanese exports among EEC and United States manufacturers, and the domestic market is being depressed by high interest rates. Japanese com-

panies, therefore, are feeling the pinch.

Also depressing Japan's growth is the dependence on world trade. The debt problem of the third world countries has limited its capacity to buy foreign goods. These negative influences on Japanese companies are also bad for the currency, which moves in line with Japan's export performance because that has been the country's main source of growth.

So not only is the prospect for Japanese dividends limited, but also the opportunity for capital gain on the currency.

Japanese technology companies have been the focus of foreign investment in Japan, and P & D still like Alps, NEC, Sharp, Teac and Tokyo Electron. But the overall rise in the Tokyo market may now be only moderate.

South Africa is very dependent on the gold price, gold being overwhelmingly the main source of earnings and the price does seem to be quite happy above \$400 (£267). Just how much further it will rise this year depends on the number of "funk" factors that develop internationally. Wars and high oil prices are two positive factors for gold.

Australia is also largely dependent on the world price for resources. But the new Labour government is less expansion-minded than has originally feared, and foreign investment is returning to the country.

Italy is another market that shows good recovery possibilities, but has some domestic eccentricities that remove much of its attraction. Share price movements closely correlate to the desires of the major Italian families, who hold strategic stakes in so many big industrial companies.

Sally White

Savings

Escalating your premiums

William & Glyn's customers are being invited in an enclosure with their Access statement to subscribe to a Sun Life monthly investment scheme, the New Flexible Escalator Investment Plan.

The monthly premiums escalate at the rate of 10 per cent a year, and after 10 years investors receive a guaranteed minimum sum plus bonuses. The scheme qualifies for premium relief because of the life assurance element (£4,875 minimum cover for someone aged between 41 and 45 next birthday).

Someone paying £10 a month net in the first year will pay £18.95 a month in the final year, and is guaranteed a payment of £1,365. Including bonuses at the present level, the actual payment would be £2,629.

The escalation element in the scheme makes it difficult to compare with the more traditional 10-year savings schemes, but these returns are not generous.

Income Bonds

Sales reach £1,000m

Sales of the National Savings Income Bond, introduced in August 1982, are nearing the £1,000m mark. The cut in the minimum holding to £2,000, effective from May 3, should ensure that this milestone is soon passed.

There had been strong pressure for National Savings to introduce a simple, interesting facility to replace the old British Savings Bonds, withdrawn from sale at the end of 1979. But the reception given to the Income Bond when it appeared last year was less than rapturous.

The minimum investment was fixed at the unexpectedly high level of £5,000, and the withdrawal provisions were criticised as being complicated and harsh. But there is no denying that the bond has been a useful money-raiser for the Government, even though the rate of sales has declined in recent months.

Bonds can be purchased in multiples of £1,000 and pay regular monthly interest, either direct into a bank account or by cheque sent through the post. The rate is currently 11 per cent a year.

Interest is calculated on a day-to-day basis from the date

the purchase money is received at the Bonds and Stock Office, and is paid on the fifth day of each month. The interest is taxable, but is paid in full without deduction of tax at source.

Almost anyone can buy Income Bonds, but they could have a special appeal for elderly people of moderate means. Looking for regular income from their investments.

The position is summarised in the table. The figures for the retirement pension are based on the Government's own estimates for inflation, and the bottom line is the amount that can be earned from investments before tax becomes payable (assuming that the state pension is the only primary source of income).

Table with 4 columns: Income tax allowance, Single person (over 65), Married couple (one over 65), Difference. Rows for Retirement pension (from Nov. 1983) and Difference (1982, 1983).

With interest being paid at 11 per cent, the annual return from National Savings Income Bonds is £220 on £2,000 £550 on

£5,000, £880 on £8,000, and so on. Relating these figures to those in the table, the single person could invest £5,000 in Income Bonds, and the married couple £8,000, and still escape tax.

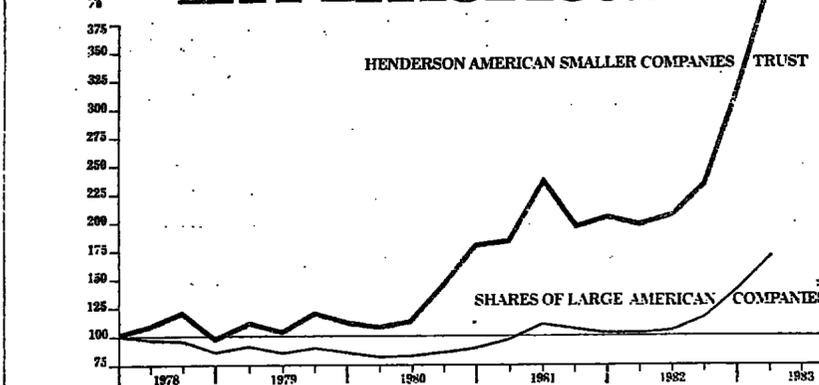
Purchasers must, however, watch the repayment rules. The prospectus, obtainable at post offices, may appear at first like a literary version of Hampton Court maze. It needs to be read carefully.

The holder must at all times give either three or six months' notice. To earn the full rate of interest for the whole period the bonds are held, six months notice must be given, coming into effect on or after the first anniversary of purchase.

During the first year, no interest is earned on money withdrawn at three months' notice, while on six months' notice only half the normal rate of interest is paid. In following years no interest is paid during the period of notice when three months' notice is given, but full interest is earned if the period of notice is six months.

In everyday terms, no one should invest in the National Savings Income Bond unless they are prepared to take at least a 12-months' view.

The small company is alive and well and making money in America.



The American Way

At first sight it seems puzzling that the Stock Market of a capitalist economy with so many obvious strengths as the USA has apparently performed so lamently over the last decade or so.

But in fact, there is a lot more dynamism in America's industry than can be measured by the Dow Jones Industrial Index which reflects the performance of just 30 major stocks, or even the Standard and Poor's Composite Index which is based on the share performance of 500 major corporations.

America was the birthplace and cradle of the entrepreneur and this is a fact which is clearly reflected in its corporate evolution. Successful businessmen do not always carry on working for someone else. The American system actively encourages them to start up on their own and build the next generation of major corporations. The frequency with which such entrepreneurial spirit is successful is illustrated by the fact that new companies come to the U.S. Stock Market at the rate of two or three a week. And over the last few years it is the shares of the smaller companies which have been making most of the running—particularly in such dynamic areas as technology, health care, and retailing.

Henderson Performance

Henderson American Smaller Companies Trust was established in 1978 specifically to provide capital growth for investors by seeking to participate in the growth of North American companies too small to have achieved widespread Wall Street recognition.

It says much both for the dynamism of the smaller company sector, and for the opportunities this presents to skilful investment managers that the

offer price of units in this £29 million Trust has risen by 299% since the time of its launch compared with a 94% rise in the Standard and Poor's Composite Index (adjusted to take account of currency movements). In the latest 'Planned Savings' comparison of unit trust companies, this is the top-performing of all unit trusts over the last four years.

Management Expertise

The Henderson Group has been investing in the USA for over 30 years, and during that time an invaluable network of contacts has been established to feed information on suitable prospects back to London. In addition the managers undertake frequent research trips to North America, and meet the management of hundreds of U.S. companies each year. In this way the most promising prospects are identified—in some cases even before they come to the market, for up to 5% of the portfolio of the trust may be invested in unquoted securities.

Fixed Price Offer

To facilitate investment the price of units has been fixed at 50.3p until 27th April 1983. To take advantage of this offer simply return the application form below together with your remittance (either direct or through your professional adviser) to reach us not later than 27th April 1983.

It should always be remembered that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. The managers are confident that the smaller company sector of the U.S. will continue to show steady future progress and this will be reflected in the performance of the Henderson American Smaller Companies Trust.

Henderson American Smaller Companies Trust

Additional Information

* Should the unit price rise to more than 100p during the fixed price period the offer will be closed and units will be allocated at the price of 100p.

† An initial charge of 2% on the assets (representing 2% of the issue price) is made by the managers when units are issued. Out of the initial charge, the managers pay commission to qualified intermediaries, who are entitled on request. The Trust does not provide for an annual charge of 1% plus 0.1% of the value of the Trust to be deducted from the gross income to cover administration costs.

‡ Distributions of income will be paid on 1st June and 1st December each year. The estimated gross yield as at 15th April 1983 was 9.41%.

§ Contract notes will be issued and unit certificates will be provided within six weeks of payment. To sell units, endorse your unit certificate and send it to the managers. Payment will normally be made within seven working days.

¶ Unit Truists are not subject to capital gains tax, however a unit holder will not pay this tax on a disposal of units unless the total realised gains from all sources in any tax year amount to more than £2,000. Prices and yields can be found daily in the Financial Times. (Units were introduced by law on 11th April 1983). Trustees: Williams & Glyn's Bank Plc, Managers: Henderson American Smaller Companies Trust Limited, 20 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 3DA (Registered Office: Reg No. 242263). A member of the Unit Trust Association. The Henderson Group also manages Personal Funds Investments, Trusts, Off-shore Funds, Exempt Trusts and Private Client Portfolios.

1. Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited, Unit Trust Department, 1 Ropemaker Way, London EC2A 3DA. Tel: 01-629 8808.

2. The Henderson American Smaller Companies Trust is a unit trust established under the provisions of the Unit Trust Act 1956. It is a member of the Unit Trust Association.

3. SHARE EXCHANGE SCHEME: Our Share Exchange Scheme provides a convenient way to switch into the Unit Trust. For details please look for telephone box 110 in your local telephone directory.

4. If you are applying for units, please complete and attach to this form: Name (Mr, Mrs, Miss), First Name(s), Address, Signature, Date.

Henderson. The Investment Managers.



The Investment Jungle.

Investing money in today's economic conditions can be an absolute nightmare for the private individual. Markets are volatile world-wide; interest rates are unstable; taxation laws are forever changing—there are literally thousands of investments available.

A Solution.

Exchange Securities Investment Management Exchange Securities specialise in making your money really work hard for you, reducing your tax liability and helping you achieve your investment objectives. You may be seeking high capital growth or regular income—but whatever your needs, Exchange Securities will devise an investment programme to suit you.

If you have capital of £20,000 or more or a total annual income of £20,000 or more—you can now benefit from FREE investment advice.

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Send now for information on Exchange Securities Investment Management. We are an independent company with a proven track record in investment analysis. We specialise in providing a confidential investment advisory service individually tailored to meet your personal needs. By returning the coupon you are under no obligation whatsoever.



Form for requesting confidential information, including fields for name, address, county, and postcode.

Midland Bank Interest Rates

Base Rate

Reduces by 1/2% to 10% per annum with effect from 15th April 1983.

Deposit Accounts

Interest paid on 7 day deposit accounts reduces by 3/4% to 6% p.a. with effect from 15th April 1983.

Monthly Income Deposit Account Service (MIDAS)

Interest paid will be reduced from 10% to 9% p.a. with effect from 16th May 1983.



Midland Bank

Midland Bank plc, 27 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX



Arbuthnot Securities Limited, one of the leading UK unit trust companies, announces the formation of a unique unit trust, Arbuthnot World Penny Share Fund. The Fund will be managed by Arbuthnot's team of highly successful investment managers.

For a minimum of £200 you can invest in a worldwide spread of penny share companies selected for their exceptional growth potential. Investment in such companies is of course quite speculative, but rewards can be infinitely greater than heavily priced shares.

Penny shares describe companies whose shares are priced in pennies rather than pounds and are usually little known and

unresearched. Consequently they provide excellent opportunities for entrepreneurs to launch them into profitability and these activities are thriving especially in America, Japan and the UK.

The aim of Arbuthnot World Penny Share Fund is to achieve maximum capital growth (estimated gross starting yield is 2% p.a.). Remember the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Until 6th May 1983, units in the new Arbuthnot World Penny Share Fund may be purchased at the fixed launch offer price of 10p. You can invest simply by returning the application form below with your remittance.

General Information Applications will be acknowledged and unit certificates will be issued within six weeks. Units can be purchased or sold back daily. Repayment is made within 14 days of our receipt of your renounced certificate. The Trust offers investors accumulation units only. The net income is automatically reinvested and the price of units is adjusted to reflect this. Income accumulation statements will be sent to investors on 31st August each year commencing 1984. Daily prices appear in leading newspapers. Remuneration is paid to intermediaries (rates available on request). Offer price includes 5% service charge. The maximum permitted annual charge is 2% of the value of the Fund plus VAT but the managers will levy this at 1%. Three months notice of any increase will be given. Offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Arbuthnot Securities Limited, 37 Queen Street, London EC4R 1BY or phone 01-236 5281. Use wish to invest £ (min £200) in Arbuthnot World Penny Share Fund at the fixed price of 10p per unit, and enclose a cheque payable to Arbuthnot Securities Ltd. I/we declare that I/we are over 18. Tick here for details of: Monthly Savings Plan, Arbuthnot's range of unit trusts. Signature(s) Date

The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society

NOTICE

IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Society will be held at the Society's Offices, Surrey Street, Norwich on Tuesday 10th May 1983 at 11.30 a.m. for the transaction of the following business:-

- To receive and consider the Reports of the Directors and Auditors and the Accounts for 1982. To elect Directors in the place of those retiring. To appoint Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration. To consider and if thought fit to adopt the following Special Resolution for the purpose of altering the Society's Articles of Association:-

The Articles of Association of the Society be altered (1) by deleting Article 31 and substituting the following Article therefor-

"31. (1) Until otherwise determined by the Society in General Meeting the aggregate annual amount of the remuneration of the Directors for their services as such shall not exceed \$100,000 and shall be divided between them in such proportions as the Directors shall from time to time determine. The Directors may in addition pay pensions and allowances to former Directors and their dependants, and may provide for the payment of pensions, allowances and lump-sum benefits on the death or retirement of any Director, but the aggregate annual amount expended on such provision (exclusive of any pensions and allowances currently being paid, and of any provision for a Director holding any executive office or appointment in addition to his directorship) in respect of any period shall not exceed one-quarter of the said sum of \$100,000 or such other amount as may be substituted therefor as the maximum aggregate annual remuneration of the Directors for the time being.

(2) If in the opinion of the Directors special circumstances exist a Director may be paid all travelling, hotel and other expenses properly incurred by him in attending and returning from meetings of the Directors or any committee of the Directors or general meetings of the Society or in connection with the business of the Society. (3) If in the opinion of the Directors it is at any time desirable that any Director shall perform any special service on behalf of the Society or its business such Director shall be paid such additional remuneration for such service as the Directors may think fit."

and (11) by deleting Article 36 and substituting the following Article therefor-

"56 The Directors shall provide for the safe custody of the Common Seal of the Society which shall only be used and affixed in accordance with regulations made from time to time by the Directors."

Dated this 15th day of April 1983 By order of the Board H. E. SCURFIELD Secretary Surrey Street Norwich



FAMILY MONEY

Spending

Shop around for credit

Rising hopes and falling interest rates are always a great inducement to spend. If you have decided, in the light of economic prospects and spring sunshine, that the time to refurbish has finally arrived, how are you going to finance it? The £4 a week extra that the average family has received from the Budget will in itself hardly justify big spending. But it can be stretched. Almost all of the big store groups now offer a form of revolving credit, generally known as a budget account, under which the impecunious customer pays in a certain amount each month and may then spend up to a given multiple of that payment, generally up to 30 times. While the account is in credit, no interest is allowed; when it is in debit, interest is charged.

There are several advantages to these schemes. They are simple, convenient and they do not require any explanations as to what use the money is to be put. However, they are also expensive. For comparison, the "true rate of interest" (ie, the APR) now being charged by Access and Barclaycard is 23.1 per cent, and that makes no allowance for the initial interest-free period (anything up to seven weeks if you time your purchases carefully). The average Barclaycard holder, repaying the debt within four months, would pay interest equivalent to some 17.5 per cent a year. A credit card account, unlike the store budget account, can be used anywhere that the credit card is accepted. If you want a revolving credit account that gives you more freedom, you should try your bank. The big four banks have some form of revolving credit, although NatWest's is simply designed to ease the payment of regular bills. Midland has something similar but, like Lloyds and Barclays, it also has a cheque book account which can be used much more freely. With the Lloyds Cashflow account, for instance, you pay in a comparatively high minimum (£20 a month), can borrow up to 30 times your payments (to a maximum of £2,000), and can use the money however you like. Unlike the stores, Lloyds pays you interest when the account is in credit (at a fairly modest 5 per cent per annum), and it charges a fairly modest

the cheque book and other payment facilities that come with these accounts is useful, but expensive. Lloyds and Barclays both charge 40p for withdrawals by cheque and standing order, rather less for withdrawals by direct debit or through cash dispensing machines. Midland charges 35p for all withdrawals. These rates are substantially higher than those on a normal current account, so you obviously would not want to use your account too frequently. If you want to undertake some disciplined savings for large purchases, however, they are a good idea, although self-discipline and the use of a building society account would certainly pay better. However attractive these schemes may be, an overdraft, now at 13 to 14 per cent for favoured customers, is still cheaper. But if you want an overdraft you will have to explain your reasons.

BORROWING MONEY IN THE SHOPS

monthly payment min-max	Budget accounts maximum multiple	interest rate APR	Interest-free credit	
			duration	minimum purchase
£5-no max	30 times	28.8	6 months	£75
£5-no max	20 times	21.5		not available
£5-£30	20 times	23.1		not available
£5-£50	30 times	23.1		not available
£20-no max	30 times up to a max of £2,000	16.4		Lloyds Bank pays 5% on accounts in credit but charges 40p per cheque or standing order and 30p per direct debit or cash dispenser.

Law Report April 16 1983 Court of Appeal

'Currency' smuggler escapes drugs conviction

Regina v Taffie Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Nolan [Judgment delivered April 14] A man who, admittedly believing that the import of currency was prohibited and that he was importing it, in fact imported 3,732 grammes of cannabis resin, succeeded in an appeal against conviction after he had changed his plea when the trial judge ruled that on the admitted facts the jury would have to be directed to convict him of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on importation of a controlled drug, contrary to section 170(2) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 and section 3(1) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The Court of Appeal quashed the conviction of Paul Desmond Patrick Taffie, a carpenter aged 32, who had been sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment at Gravesend Crown Court (Mr Recorder Griffiths) on November 18 last. The Court of Appeal refused an application by the Crown for a retrial on a new trial but, on the Crown's application, certified that a point of law of general public importance to be formulated was involved in the decision. Mr R. D. Roebuck, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Mr Christopher Aylwin for the Crown.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the appellant drove a car into the green lane of a ferry terminal at Sheerness and told the customs officer on duty that he had nothing to declare. The car was searched and it was noticed that the spare tyre was deflated. In it were found five packages containing cannabis resin. They were searched and taped to his back under his clothes were a further three packages of it.

When asked whether he knew what substance was in the packages, he said: "I am waiting to find out because if it's drugs..." and that was the end of that answer. When the officer asked the appellant what he did think was in them, he replied "money". When arraigned he initially pleaded not guilty. Evidence which the Crown intended to tender was not disputed. No evidence was called. His Lordship said "relevant" because there were doubtless other facets of the mental element which were not in issue in the present case. Their Lordships did not find helpful R v Hussain (1969) 2 QB 377 or R v Hennessy (Times) (1978) 68 Cr App R 419 on which Mr Aylwin principally relied, and they disagreed with his contention that, in a passage in Hussain, at pp 371-372, the word "know" included a state of mind of a person who "mistakenly believed" a fact to exist. It was essential that the person charged should "know" in the ordinary sense - know what was in fact the case, that the goods being imported were goods subject to a prohibition, although on the basis of Hussain and Hennessy he might not know their precise nature. The matter could be approached from another angle. In Sweet Parsley (1970) AC 132, 163, after citing Mr Justice Stephen in R v Tolson (1889) 23 QBD 162, Lord Diplock said: "... even where the words used to describe the prohibited importation are such as to connote the necessity for any particular mental element, they are nevertheless to be read as subject to the implication that a necessary element in the offence is the absence of a belief honestly, in the existence of facts which if true would make the act innocent. As was said by the Privy Council in Bank of New South Wales v Piper (1897) AC 383, 389, 390, "the absence of mens rea really consists in such a belief by the accused." What, then, if the jury in the present case had been asked to decide the matter and had concluded that the appellant might have believed that what he was importing was currency and not prohibited drugs? He had to be judged against the facts as he believed them to be. Had it been currency and not cannabis, no offence would have been committed. Did it make any difference that the appellant thought wrongly that by clandestinely importing currency he was committing an offence? Mr Aylwin submitted that it did and that a man had to be judged according to the total mistakes under which he acted. Their Lordships thought that that submission was wrong. It no doubt made his actions morally reprehensible. It did not turn what he, for the purposes of argument, believed to be the importation of currency into the commission of a criminal offence. His views on the law as to the importation of currency were, to that extent, irrelevant. Mr Aylwin, by way of an argument in terrorem, suggested that if the appeal was allowed then all importers of drugs would say they believed that the substance was money and not drugs and the courts would be inundated by bogus defences. The present case was, however, clearly not appropriate for the application of the proviso to section 2(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968. Solicitors: Solicitors, Customs and Excise.

Conspiracy to cause damage abroad not indictable here

Attorney General's Reference No 1/1982 Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Taylor and Mr Justice McCowan [Judgment delivered March 30] On a charge of conspiracy to defraud where the conspiracy was to be carried out abroad, it was not indictable in England even if its performance would cause economic loss and damage to the proprietary interests of a company within the jurisdiction, or if its performance would injure a person or company here by causing him or it damage abroad. The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) so stated in giving a reserved opinion on a reference of points of law by the Attorney General under section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1972. Miss Ann Goddard, QC, and Mr P. C. Ader for the Attorney General; Mr Colin Dines for the defendants. THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the defendants were charged with conspiracy to defraud. The particulars of the offence were that they had conspired together and with others to defraud such companies and persons, and in particular X Company Ltd, as might be caused loss by unlawful labelling, sale, supply or marketing of whisky purporting to be that of X label products. X Co Ltd being the proprietors of the labelled products and owning the copyright in the label. At the conclusion of the Crown case the judge upheld submissions on behalf of the defendants that the court had no jurisdiction to try the indictment because a conspiracy in England to commit a crime abroad was not indictable here unless the crime contemplated was one for which an indictment would lie in England. X Co distilled and marketed whisky. Their registered offices were in England. Two of their brands or labels were world famous. They owned the copyright in and claimed the exclusive use of those labels. Their labels were protected by trade marks registered in almost all countries and in particular in England, Germany and the Lebanon. Two of the defendants, A and B, were directors of X Co. That company had no business dealings with X Co. The prosecution case was that A and B arranged to sell to L a large quantity of whisky, the ultimate destination of which was to be the Lebanon. The contract was concluded in London. Perforated sheets of labels imitating those of X Co were printed and brought to Y Co in London, where A, B and C (another defendant) passed them for transmission to Frankfurt, where they were to be fixed to the bottles of whisky, prior to the whisky being shipped to the Lebanon and sold as the X Co's product. The German authorities then seized the bottles before the plans could be further implemented. X Co had appreciable sales in the Lebanon, and it was likely that if the defendant's whisky, masquerading as that of X Co, had been sold in the Lebanon, X Co would have suffered loss of trade, quite apart from the infringement of their trade marks and possible injury to their reputation generally. Miss Goddard, for the Attorney General, asserted that the indictment was drawn with the intention of alleging against the defendants a conspiracy to defraud the X Co and/or its parent or subsidiary companies. It was not intended, despite its wording, to allege a conspiracy to defraud any possible purchasers of the whisky in the Lebanon. Indeed, she expressly disavowed any reliance on a conspiracy to obtain money by deception. Her argument stood or fell on her contention that what was proved here was a conspiracy to defraud this country to defraud X Co or its associates by the dishonest use of its labels. Whether she advanced two separate propositions. Her starting point was, as it must be, the decision of the House of Lords in Board of Trade v Owen (1957) AC 602. That case decided that a conspiracy in England to commit a crime abroad was not indictable in England unless the crime contemplated was one for which an indictment would lie in England. Miss Goddard's first argument was that, accepting that test, although no indictment would lie in England for a substantive crime if this conspiracy was carried out, the conspiracy itself was indictable here because its ultimate object was to

Allied Irish Banks Limited

announce that with effect from close of business on 15th April 1983 its Base Rate is reduced from 10 1/2% to 10% p.a. Head Office - Britain: 64-66 Coleman Street London EC2R 5AL

Standard Chartered

announces that on and after 15th April, 1983 its Base Rate for lending is being decreased from 10 1/2% to 10% p.a. The interest rate payable on deposit accounts subject to seven days notice of withdrawal will be decreased from 7 1/2% to 6 3/4% p.a. The interest rate payable on High Interest deposit accounts subject to twenty one days notice of withdrawal will be decreased from 8 1/2% to 7 3/4% p.a. Standard Chartered Bank PLC

Judge's decision to separate plot defendants

Regina v Roberts It was a matter for the judge's assessment whether, in a conspiracy involving two defendants, the two cases were different so that it was possible for one defendant to be acquitted, the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Lawton, Mr Justice Michael Davis and Mr Justice Anthony Lincoln) held on April 15 when dismissing an appeal by John Joseph Roberts against conviction. LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that the judgment of the Lord Chief Justice in R v Lawrence (1981) 72 Cr App R 121, 125 had to be construed as meaning that it was for the judge and not for the jury to decide whether evidence against each defendant was markedly different.

16.4 per cent when the account is in the red. Midland and Barclays will let you pay in less (a minimum of £10 a month), and borrow more (a maximum of £3,000). Both charge you more when you are in debit, but pay you more when you are in the black. The cheque book and other payment facilities that come with these accounts is useful, but expensive. Lloyds and Barclays both charge 40p for withdrawals by cheque and standing order, rather less for withdrawals by direct debit or through cash dispensing machines. Midland charges 35p for all withdrawals. These rates are substantially higher than those on a normal current account, so you obviously would not want to use your account too frequently. If you want to undertake some disciplined savings for large purchases, however, they are a good idea, although self-discipline and the use of a building society account would certainly pay better. However attractive these schemes may be, an overdraft, now at 13 to 14 per cent for favoured customers, is still cheaper. But if you want an overdraft you will have to explain your reasons.

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MOTOR RACING

French circuit tailor-made for the turbos

From John Blunsden, Le Castellet

The first day of official practice for tomorrow's French Grand Prix has provided further decisive proof that the 3.6 mile Paul Ricard circuit is tailor-made for cars with turbo-charged engines. Top of the 11 fastest times have been set by the powerful turbo, the only interloper in his Marlboro McLaren-Ford.

Trevino in joint lead with a 66

IN BRIEF

Hilton Head, South Carolina (Reuters) - Lee Trevino had one of his best rounds of the year, a 66 (five under par) to join Mark McNulty of South Africa and Jackie Mundt as leaders in the first round of the Heritage golf classic here yesterday.

England must clear Welsh hurdle to win grand slam

By David Hand, Rugby Correspondent

Whatever disappointments England have suffered at international level over the last few years, their schoolboys have seldom let them down. Nor have they this season: the England 18 group side go into their final game today seeking the junior grand slam.

Title awaits Hull in more ways than one

By Keith Macklin

Barring some remarkable scoring by Wigan, the championship belongs to Hull, who can be expected to clinch it in the final home league game of the season against Barrow tomorrow.

Warwick hard luck

French Grand Prix will be over 54 laps for a distance of 195 miles. Whatever happens, McLaren-Ford will still head the constructors' championship with 19 points.

BOXING: Gerry Cooney, who has not boxed since he was stopped by Larry Holmes in the 13th round last June, will return to the ring in Las Vegas on June 18 against Phil Brown, an unbeaten but relatively unknown heavyweight.

ICE HOCKEY: The 49th world championships, group A open today with the Soviet Union clear favourites.

GYMNASTICS

Langley to deliver?

The withdrawal of the Soviet team and the absence through injury of Stoyan Deltchev, of Bulgaria, the former European champion, have improved the chances of a medal for Britain at the seven-nations Champions All tournament, sponsored by the Daily Mirror, at Wembley today, Peter Aykroyd writes.

TENNIS

Reeves with a rush

The unseeded Jenny Reeves, chasing unlikeliness about the court, is striking everything offensively. In the 16-and-under junior, hard-court championships, sponsored by Frutemal at the Edgbaston, Coventry, Club, a Special Correspondent writes.

Study of amateur laws

Wellington (Reuters) - Speculation about professionalism has prompted the New Zealand Rugby Union to set up a group to study changes to the sport's rigid amateur laws.

SNOOKER

Higgins: Omen II

By Sydney Friskin

Alex Higgins begins the defence of his second professional title, sponsored by Embassy at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, today, with a match against the rising young Dean Reynolds of Grimsby.



Davis: sparkle regained in Kildare

A large financial table titled 'Unit Trust Prices - change on the week' containing columns for various unit trusts, their current prices, and weekly changes. It also includes sections for 'Insurance Bonds and Funds' and 'Savings Bonds and Funds'.

RACING: 2,000 GUINEAS TRIAL AT NEWBURY

Proclaim can strike while the iron is hot

At one time this spring there was a distinct possibility that Dick and Gorytus would meet for the first time in their controversial race at the Newmarket last autumn in the Greenham Stakes at Newbury today.

For's rather sluggish showing in that gallop with Dick and Gorytus more recent events have dictated otherwise - Dick's preparation for the 2,000 Guineas was interrupted a fortnight ago when he pulled a muscle in his quarters while Dick Hera declined to run one as big as Gorytus, who is the very essence of a good runner on such soft ground.

Ancestral deputizes for Danzatore

Yves Saint-Martin, 14, times French champion jockey, can make his first visit to Thirsk, a memorable occasion by winning the Timeform Racecard Stakes on Horage this afternoon. This is the man who has twice shown Lester Piggott the way home in the Prix de la Ceinture.

Some fast horses will be on view in the Thirsk Hall Stakes. On Stage who falls from the same stable as the Free Handicap winner, Boom Town Charlie, must be the one that they all have to beat.

Newbury

Draw no advantage. Total double 3.0, 4.0, Treble 2.30, 3.30, 4.30. [Television (BBC) 2.0, 2.30, 3.0 and 3.30 races].

2.0 BUCKLEBURY STAKES (3-y-o maiden fillies; £2,855: 7) (12 runners). FUSKERY (Mrs C. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04. HENRIETTA (Mrs J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04.

2.30 CLERICAL MEDICAL GREENHAM STAKES (Group III; 3-y-o; £14,255: 7) (9). 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04.

3.0 JOHN PORTER STAKES (Group II; £15,800: 1m 4f) (8). 401. 21210. LITTLE WOLF (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04. 401. 21210. LITTLE WOLF (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04.

4.0 ST ANNE'S STAKES (2-y-o maidens; fillies; £1,651: 5f) (5). 2.0. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04. 2.0. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04.

Newbury selections. By Michael Phillips. 2.0 Magdalena. 2.30 Proclaim. 3.0 Crossways. 3.30 Amyndas. 4.0 Tistemo. 4.30 Adonijah.

Thirsk

Draw advantage: High numbers best. [Television (ITV) 1.30, 2.0 and 2.30 races]. 1.30 TIMEFORM RACE CARD STAKES (3-Y-O; £2,855: 1m) (9 runners). 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04.

2.0 THIRSK HALL STAKES (£5,255: 0) (13). 3. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04. 3. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04.

2.30 WEBSTER'S YORKSHIRE BITTER HANDICAP (£3,190: 1m 4f) (11). 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04. 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04.

2.15 LONDON AND NORTHERN CHASE (Grade II; novices; 26:37m; 2m) (5). 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04. 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04.

2.55 WILLIAM HILL SCOTTISH NATIONAL CHASE (Grade II; novices; £18,645: 4m 120yds) (22). 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04. 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04.

Thirsk selections. By Michael Phillips. 1.45 Reiko. 2.15 Mountain Hays. 2.55 Earis Brig. 3.30 Bonfire. 4.0 Fay Ryalog.

Royal Vulcan wins

Royal Vulcan got the better of a rare battle with Ekbalco on the flat in the Scottish Champion Stakes at Ayr yesterday.

Escaline to shine at Longchamp

There are no English runners at Longchamp tomorrow when the sun has finally appeared to dry the saturated track of some two weeks old.

Stratford

2.15 ILLINGTON HURDLE (selling handicap; £2,420: 2m) (14). 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04. 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04.

Huntingdon

2.0 ABCKET RIFTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HURDLE (selling handicap; £2,500: 2m) (13 runners). 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04. 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04.

Bangor

2.15 FINLAS HURDLE (Div I; novices; £485: 2m 80yds) (10 runners). 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04. 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04.

4.0 GEORFFREY LAWFIELD HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs; £2,630: 3m) (12). 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04. 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04.

Today's Point-to-points

Beda's West of Beda (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04. 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04. 1. 21414-6. WESTWIND (D. J. Wain) 9-11. P. Proctor 11.04.

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HOCKEY

Ireland certain of place in last four

From Joyce Whitehead, Kuala Lumpur

Ireland have qualified for the semi-finals of the Intercontinental Cup. They beat Hongkong 4-0 here yesterday to complete their fourth win in four matches. They have only Belgium to play in their group.

Ireland were seeded only seventh in the cup and if they reach the final they will be assured of a place in the World Cup tournament next time. They had a fine spirited game with Hongkong, who held them for the first 25 minutes, then came the goals, two from Owen Paul and two from Sandra Druin, on of which was due to a mistake by Hongkong's sweeper. The ball was cleverly picked up by Miss Drum and swept into goal.

Neston weakened

By Sydney Friskin

Neston, the Chelsea Cup holders, will have to do without Chris Ashcroft, their No. 1 goalkeeper, and David Peters, the mainstay of their defence, for the final stages of the national club championship, sponsored by Rank Xerox, at St Albans this weekend.

Southgate will be at the Hags from May 20 to 23 trying to recover the European club championship they had won from 1976 to 1978. Their immediate task is the retention of their national title and the national cup.

Ashcroft and Peters are both in the Welsh squad who are on a training weekend today and tomorrow at Cardiff in prepara-

tion for their international matches against Netherlands at Swansea on April 23 and 24. Also in the Welsh training squad are David Thomas who is expected to play for Southgate. The onus is on Thomas to decide which way to go.

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WEEKEND FIXTURES

Table of football fixtures for the weekend, including FA Cup Semi-finals, First division, Second division, Scottish Cup, and various league matches.

BIRTHS

MANY PROPHETS and predictions have been made for the year ahead. Here are some of the more interesting ones from the past year.

BIRTHS

DOYLE - On April 15th, at St. Andrew's, Dublin, the wife of James J. Doyle, a daughter, Catherine, born 12.12.82.

DEATHS

BROWN - On April 14th, at St. Andrew's, Dublin, the wife of James J. Brown, a daughter, Catherine, born 12.12.82.

BIRTHDAYS

SKAT, you're ever gentle on my mind. Mary Happy Returns. X T W C.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

Personal columns including: ANNOUNCEMENTS, IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND, HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS, AUSTRALASIA AND WORLD WIDE, TRIMFLIGHTS CITY FLIGHTS, STERLING TRAVEL, GREAT BRITISH CENTRICS, HOLIDAY HOME SOUGHT, GREAT BRITISH CENTRICS, HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS, APRIL/MAY SUPER SAVERS, PILGRIM AIR, PILGRIM AIR LTD, LOWEST AIR FARES TO AUSTRALIA, EUROPEAN FLIGHTS, AUSSE, EAR EAST JOUBURG, CHEAP FARES WORLD WIDE, LOWEST AIR FARES TO AUSTRALIA, EUROPEAN FLIGHTS, AUSSE, EAR EAST JOUBURG, CHEAP FARES WORLD WIDE, LOWEST AIR FARES TO AUSTRALIA, EUROPEAN FLIGHTS, AUSSE, EAR EAST JOUBURG, CHEAP FARES WORLD WIDE.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

Low cost flights, villa rentals, and holiday packages. Includes sections for 'LOW COST FLIGHTS', 'VILLA NR. ALBUFEIRA', 'PLAYA D'ARO COSTA BRAVA', 'STERLING TRAVEL', 'GREAT BRITISH CENTRICS', 'HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS', 'APRIL/MAY SUPER SAVERS', 'PILGRIM AIR', 'PILGRIM AIR LTD', 'LOWEST AIR FARES TO AUSTRALIA', 'EUROPEAN FLIGHTS', 'AUSSE, EAR EAST JOUBURG', 'CHEAP FARES WORLD WIDE', 'LOWEST AIR FARES TO AUSTRALIA', 'EUROPEAN FLIGHTS', 'AUSSE, EAR EAST JOUBURG', 'CHEAP FARES WORLD WIDE'.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Senior solicitor, media appointments, motor cars, Mercedes, Jaguar, and various legal notices. Includes 'SENIOR SOLICITOR MIDDLETONS, OSWALD BURT & Co.', 'EDITORIAL RESEARCHER', 'MOTOR CARS', 'MERCEDES', 'JAGUAR', 'LEGAL APPOINTMENTS', 'EDITORIAL RESEARCHER', 'MOTOR CARS', 'MERCEDES', 'JAGUAR'.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

Villa Actime, Costa del Sol, quality villa holidays. Includes 'VILLA ACTIME ON THE COSTA DEL SOL', 'PUERTO CABOPINO', 'MARBELLA', 'BANUS', 'ALOHA'.

Awacs fly over Central America

Nicholas Ashford
Washington

The Reagan Administration has revealed that Awacs radar surveillance aircraft have been operating over Central America and the Caribbean for the past two months to spy on air traffic moving into and out of Nicaragua.

News about the operations of the Awacs was made public in an attempt to underline the Administration's concern about an alleged arms build-up by Nicaragua. The US contends that the Sandinista Government in Nicaragua is supplying some of these weapons to left-wing insurgents fighting against Government forces in neighbouring El Salvador.

US sources said the aircraft, which are based at Tinker Air Force base in Oklahoma, had only been using international air space and that all their operations were in compliance with international law.

The revelation that these highly sophisticated spy aircraft are being used in the region has underscored the United States expanding, although still largely secret, involvement in Central America which the Reagan Administration regards as its "front line" against the spread of Marxism in Latin America.

However, their involvement is also causing concern that the US is allowing itself to become increasingly involved in the conflicts that are taking place in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras.

On Thursday President Reagan went out of his way strenuously to deny reports that the US was trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government.

"Anything we are doing in that area is to interdict the supply lines which are supplying the guerrillas in El Salvador," he told journalists.

More popular expectations that President Reagan will seek reelection next year rose yesterday after publication of a new opinion poll which found that his popularity had increased sharply in recent weeks.

Scargill turns his back on London

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The miners turned their backs on London yesterday and returned to their roots in the Yorkshire coalfield with a characteristic flourish of contempt for the capital.

Mr Arthur Scargill, left-wing leader of the National Union of Mineworkers, said: "I have been president for a year and 10 days. That is a year and 10 days in London too long. My only regret is that we did not leave sooner."

As he watched an eight-ton marble sculpture of two miners at the coal face being winched out of the Euston Road headquarters of the union, he freely indulged his dislike for the seductive powers of the capital.

"London is a place where you can be very easily sucked into the system, and I have no intention of allowing that to happen," he insisted. "The sooner we get back to the coalfield, the better."

The union takes up temporary residence in an office block in Sheffield next week, while a £3.8m headquarters is built over the next two years on a site next to the City Hall.

Only three of the 36 full-time staff of the London office share Mr Scargill's enthusiasm for his native heath. The rest have quit, and the redundancy "buy-out" costs are likely to amount to £160,000 a year.

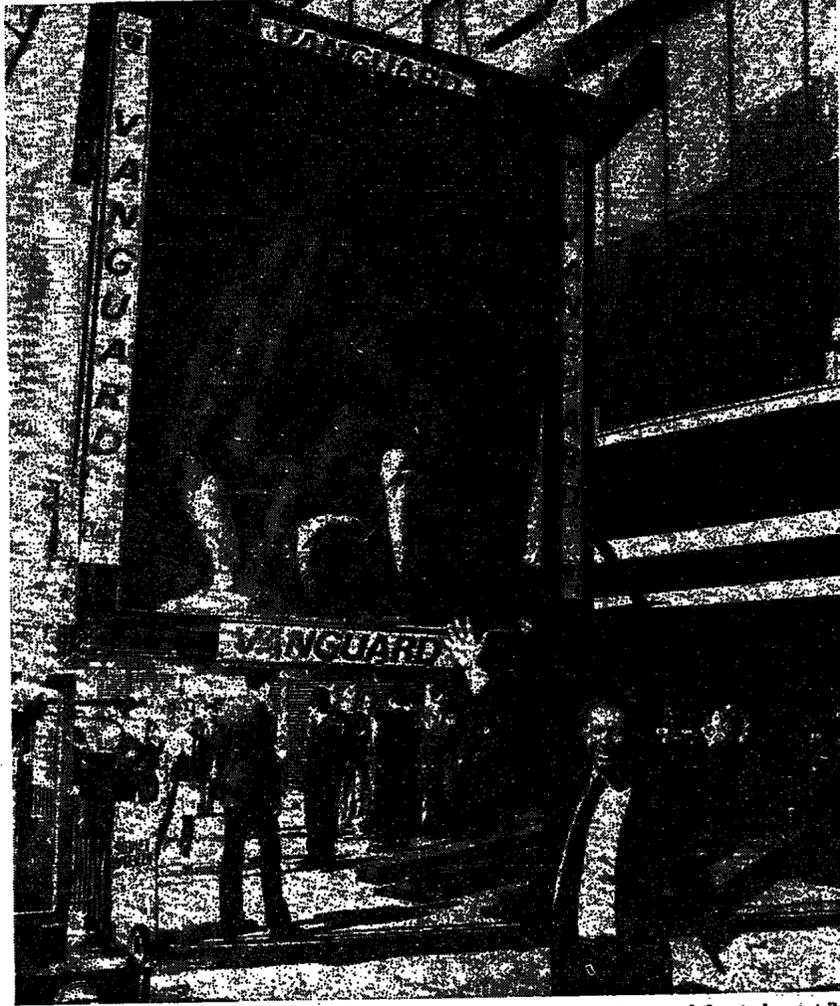
The miners have never really been at home in London. With the exception of their former president, Lord Gormley, they stuck to a tight (sometimes quite literally) circuit of public houses and hotels in the Euston area.

The 25 members of the executive even had left-wing and right-wing Irish public houses.

All that is over. Like it or not (and some members of the executive are bitterly regretting their support for the unanimous decision to move north) they will have to travel to Yorkshire for senior-level meetings of the union.

But Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman-designate of the National Coal Board, is unlikely to journey to the new Camelot of "King Arthur". Negotiation and consultative meetings will continue to be held at the board's headquarters in Grosvenor Place.

The union's staff were not there yesterday to see the ritual publicity surrounding the move of the



"Vigour of Youth, Wisdom of Experience" statue that has adorned the NUM entrance hall for more than two decades. The sculpture is going into store.

Mr Scargill left the capital as he first came to it in the 1950s as an industrial organizer on the national committee of the Young Communist League, breathing fire against the employers and threatening a strike at an unspecified time over pit closures. The miners will not miss London. The feeling is probably reciprocated.

Letter from the Western Desert Tourist road arrives to ruin the last oasis

Visit the Western Desert now, an Egyptian advised. Within two years the oases will be unrecognizable. It seemed an understatement as neat rows of Scandinavian conifers came into view at Bahariyah, most northerly of the four-villages on the 700-mile road which sweeps south-west of Cairo, half way to Libya, then back through the New Valley to the Nile.

The trees are Sweden's contribution to a land-reclamation scheme. A few miles away, iron-ore workings provide a new source of income to Bahariyah's population of 7,000.

In the New Valley, Kharga already has an airport, and is, with Dakhla, the focus of an ambitious agricultural development project which Field Marshal Adhelhalim Abu Ghazala, the Defence Minister, once suggested could include a canal, five times as long as that at Suez, to the Mediterranean.

Only Farafra, smallest of the oases, remains a remote and quintessentially private place: even much of the farming goes on behind high walls built, like the houses, of sun-dried mud brick.

It is a clean and austere village, its only external decoration the fine calligraphy of Koranic verses outside the homes of those who have made the *hajji*, the pilgrimage to Mecca. Here and there are paintings of the ship or aircraft in which the *hajji* travelled; but these are the sole obvious acknowledgment that the outside world exists.

Sadat had a house built here, but never used it, and it squats, a graceless, buff-and-red concrete building behind an 8ft wall and deserted watch-tower on a nearby mound. The villagers do not go up there, while the soldiers who camp at the foot of the hill keep to themselves. The state's presence is restricted to a post office, whose cool and silent interior contains what appears to be Farafra's one portrait of President Mubarak.

At the bus stop in Bahariyah, men gather to read the newspapers brought from Cairo; but the bus does not continue to Farafra in three days. I recently spent there, lodging for 60p a night in the police station outside the village, only two vehicles stopped at the checkpoint.

It was a surprise to hear the primary school mathematics teacher expound: "Thatcher, they call her the Iron Lady, but she is not a woman. No woman would do what she did to Bobby Sands."

"Galtier? I don't know. I support Argentina because it is the Third World, but its regime is bad, bad."

He listened to Israel radio "for the best music in the Middle East", but was impervious to its message. "Sharon? I would feed him to the dogs, then shoot the dogs."

His indignation would have been wasted on the officer checking the passports of the tourists in the *Rotels*, the two scarlet German juggernauts which passed by the village, who did not think an Israeli document is the pile.

Tourism adds about £700m a year to the state's revenues, and while the Army forces one *Rotel* to drive on after the Germans went nude bathing in a nearby spring, Farafra's conservative way of life is doomed, its fate written in the billboards which proclaim every 20 miles "Bahariyah-Farafra Road, built by the Egyptian General Petroleum Company."

Asphalted two years ago, the road has entered local psychology. A village pointed out to me, Sheikh Abdullah, one of the sulphur mounds which grow eerily as the desert sun sets. Asked when the shaft, a revered mystic, had been buried, he replied "a long time ago, before the road was built."

It is tempting to see Farafra as Egypt's last corner of noble simplicity, the one place where children do not endlessly intone "change money Mister?" Tempting that, it is, until the weak and flicker electricity supply falls after three hours each evening.

Robert Holloway

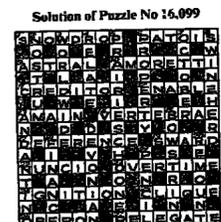
THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions
Works by Gordon Baldwin, touring exhibition, Temple Newsam House, Leeds; Tues to Sat 1.30 to 5.30 (from today until May 15).
Winter in Portugal Embroidered

landscapes by Jean Davy, Peter Dingley Gallery, 16 Meer Street, Stratford-on-Avon; Mon to Sat 9.30 to 1.30, 2.30 to 5.30, Thurs 9.30 to 1.30 (from today until May 7).

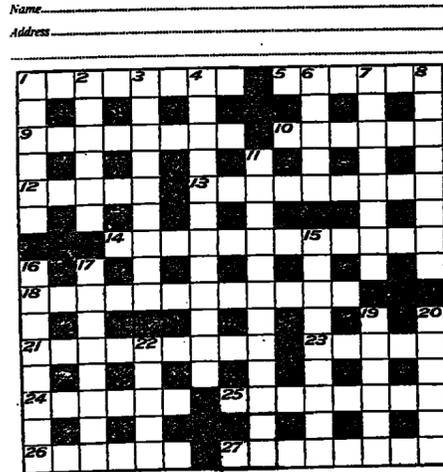
Five modern paintings from the Tate Gallery, Ferns Art Gallery, Queen Victoria Square, Bath; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 4.30 (from today until May 22).



The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16105

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first correct solution received next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9PT. The winner and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winner of last Saturday's competition is Mrs E. M. K. Green, Corton Cottage, Hoplandswaine, Sheffield.



- ACROSS
- "Challenge" is, oddly, in quotes (8).
 - Rails at every infraction (6).
 - Plain-spoken music and art (8).
 - A purler for some pupils (6).
 - Cask in North Africa (5).
 - Cavalry presses on to Middle-march (9).
 - Engrossing pupil in rewriting composition (12).
 - Substitute horseman for one without a seat (8-4).
 - Bedouin boards most haphazard vehicle (9).
 - He used to teach pronouns (5).
 - Water at its hardest? It depends (6).
 - French marshal that I left - playing these bowls? (8).
 - Some gypsies take a nap (6).
 - Always returned payment with respect (8).
- DOWN
- Measures mineral, we hear (6).
 - Commission of a sovereign (SA money) (6).
 - Where one enters right into the quiet of earlier times (9).
 - How the cricketer scores, unaided (3,3,3,5).
 - What householders pay for rates (5).
 - Story one acted out (8).
 - Off work suffering from nostalgia (8).
 - Shady plot in which mole crouches distraught (6,6).
 - In love, copper delayed graft (9).
 - Spy's involved with infiltration of fashionable mediums (8).
 - March I spent initially inside a most delightful place (8).
 - Order to stop, say (6).
 - Many are not outwardly passionate (6).
 - Hand out vote to have head removed (5).

Gardens open

TODAY AND TOMORROW
Wiltshire: Stourton House, Zeals, 3m NW of Mere; 4 acres divided into individual gardens, unusual spring bulbs, azaleas, rhododendrons, magnolias, rock garden; 12 to 6.

TOMORROW
Berkshire: Culham Court, Aston, near Henley-on-Thames, off A423 on Maidenhead side of Henley; interesting rock garden; 2 to 7.
Buckinghamshire: Horsenden Manor, Horsenden, 1 1/2 m W of Princes Risborough off A4010; 8-acre garden, fine trees, masses of dahlias, lake, moats, waterfalls; 12.30 to 6. Cambridgehire: Bardlow Park, 1 1/2 m SE of Linton, 6m NE of Saffron Walden, off A604 at Linton; spring bulbs, flowering shrubs; 2 to 6.
Leicestershire: Long Close, Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough; 2 acres, rhododendrons, camellias, magnolias, spring bulbs, rare trees and shrubs; 2 to 6.

Northamptonshire: The Cottage, Charlton, near Banbury, off A41 at Aynhoe; daffodils, streams and lakes; 2 to 6. Cambridgeshire: Holly House, Charlton; walled garden, very good collection of daffodils; 2 to 6. Surrey: Vaux, Hambledon, 6m S of Godalming, off A283 to 6.30. Norfolk: The Garden, Norwich; spring bulbs, azaleas, plant and vegetable stall; today until Friday 2 to 7. Sussex West: The Upper Lodge, Stopham, on W of Colburough via A283 towards Partridge; small garden mainly rhododendrons, and azaleas, large collection of shrubs for acid soil; 2 to 5.

London Marathon

The 1983 GLC London Marathon, sponsored by Gillette, starts at Shooters Hill Road (Blue Star) and Charlton Way (Red Star), Blackheath, at 9.30 am tomorrow. The first runners should reach the finishing line on Westminster Bridge at about 11.40.

Viewing points
The London Tourist Board recommends the following viewing points:
At the Start Blue Star (men); East Price Charles Road, south side of Shooters Hill; Red Star (women and first-time marathon runners); On Blackheath, background site along Charlton Way in front of National Maritime Museum, then walk through Greenwich Park to the river to see the tower through the tunnel, or get a boat or train back to central London.
Along the route: Tower Bridge and the London Bridge; Tower Bridge and St Katharine Docks; Farmers cross from south and return from late of Dogs under bridge.
Towards the finish: Along Embankment, Northumberland Avenue, Trafalgar Square, Westminster Bridge, then walk to the finish on the closed-off 1 1/2 mile way, just by Big Ben.

Riverboat services
The first service will be Westminster to Greenwich (11.10); Greenwich to Westminster (11.15) (return 12.00); Tower Pier to Greenwich (11.00) (return 11.30); Greenwich to Tower Pier (11.30) (return 12.00).

London Transport
Bus routes affected by the marathon are: 1, 3, 11, 12, 15, 22A, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Weather

A trough of low pressure will move slowly and erratically across N and W.

6 am to midnight

London, East Angles, SE, E, and Central S England, E Midlands: Dry, bright or sunny periods; wind S, moderate; max 10 to 17C (50 to 63F).

W Midlands, Central N and NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, NW Scotland, N and SW Scotland: max 14 to 16C (57 to 61F).

Channel Islands, SW and NW England, Wales: Wind S to SW, moderate or fresh; max 11 to 14C (52 to 57F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Scotland, NW Scotland, N Ireland: Rain at times, clearer from W later, scattered showers; wind S to SW, moderate; max 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).

Orkney, Shetland: Showers, rain at times, becoming clearer; cloudy later; wind S, moderate or fresh; max 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Unsettled; showers or rain, windy over N hills. Rather cold but near normal temperatures in the SE.

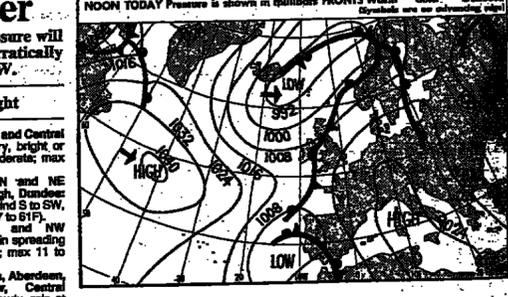
SEA PASSAGES: North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E; Wind S, backing SE, moderate or fresh; sea slight or moderate). St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S, moderate or fresh, veering W, light sea; slight or moderate.

Weather

6 am to midnight

Sun rises: 6:04 am Sun sets: 7:58 pm
Moon rises: 7:50 am Moon sets: 11:59 pm
First Quarter: April 20.

TOMORROW
Sun rises: 6:02 am Sun sets: 8:00 pm
Moon rises: 8:24 am Moon sets: 1:14 am tomorrow



Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday; a table of 4 sun, 1, lat.

Station	C	F	Station	C	F
Belfast	8	46	Greenwich	13	55
Birmingham	14	57	Jersey	17	63
Bristol	10	50	London	13	55
Cardiff	14	57	Manchester	11	52
Edinburgh	9	48	Newcastle	11	52
Glasgow	9	48	Nottingham	11	52

London

(600h; Temp: max 8 am to 8 pm, 15.0C; min 6 pm to 6 am, 8.0C (49F). Humidity: 65% at 6 pm, 10.0h. Bar: mean sea level 1008.1 millibars falling. 1,000 millibars = 29.92 in.)

Highest and lowest

Highest day temp: London, 18C (65F); highest day max: Manchester, 16.0C (61F); highest night min: Liverpool, 8.0C (46F); lowest night min: Brighton, 11.0C (52F).

High tides

Station	Time	Station	Time
London Bridge	2.01	TOMORROW	2.01
Aberdeen	4.08	Aberdeen	5.05
Abercromby	10.02	Abercromby	10.41
Belfast	2.14	Belfast	3.33
Cardiff	10.08	Cardiff	10.08
Dover	1.57	Dover	2.57
Edinburgh	3.02	Edinburgh	3.02
Glasgow	4.09	Glasgow	4.09
Greenwich	2.01	Greenwich	2.01
Hull	3.40	Hull	3.40
Leith	6.01	Leith	6.01
Liverpool	10.29	Liverpool	10.29
Manchester	3.02	Manchester	3.02
Millwall Haven	1.45	Millwall Haven	1.45
Newquay	8.31	Newquay	8.31
Oban	9.02	Oban	9.02
Portsmouth	1.45	Portsmouth	1.45
Southampton	2.01	Southampton	2.01
Swansea	1.45	Swansea	1.45
Tees	7.01	Tees	7.01
Wilton-on-Noon	2.32	Wilton-on-Noon	2.32

Around Britain

Station	Sun	Rain	Mix
St Andrews	10.2	16	Sunny
Scarborough	10.2	16	Sunny
Bridlington	11.4	15	Sunny
Doncaster	10.1	14	Sunny
Leeds	10.1	14	Sunny
Sheffield	10.1	14	Sunny
Manchester	10.1	14	Sunny
Nottingham	10.1	14	Sunny
London	10.1	14	Sunny
Birmingham	10.1	14	Sunny
Cardiff	10.1	14	Sunny
Belfast	10.1	14	Sunny
Edinburgh	10.1	14	Sunny
Glasgow	10.1	14	Sunny
Liverpool	10.1	14	Sunny
Manchester	10.1	14	Sunny
Newcastle	10.1	14	Sunny
Nottingham	10.1	14	Sunny
Sheffield	10.1	14	Sunny
Southampton	10.1	14	Sunny
Swansea	10.1	14	Sunny
Tees	10.1	14	Sunny
Wilton-on-Noon	10.1	14	Sunny

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